



Flying the flag... Häkkinen after his victory. PHOTO: MICHAEL COOPER

Motor Racing Japanese Grand Prix

Perfect Finnish to the title

Alan Henry at Suzuka

MIKA Häkkinen of Finland clinched the 1998 Formula One world championship with a flawless flag-to-flag victory in the Japanese Grand Prix, a success which also gave the McLaren team its first constructors' title since the late Ayrton Senna secured his third and final crown in this race seven years ago.

For Michael Schumacher and the Ferrari team, their last-ditch efforts to secure a first drivers' title since 1979 ended in abject disaster.

The rule which states that any driver who causes a restart by making such an elementary error as stalling must go to the back of the grid was introduced to encourage adherence to unyielding television deadlines. In the past it has tended to penalise second-division competitors rather than the stars of the show.

But after Jarno Trulli's Prost was moved to the back of the grid as punishment for spoiling the first start with such a lapse, Schumacher had to take the same medicine following an identical transgression from pole position.

Schumacher recovered to third place before suffering a catastrophic tyre failure at 285 km/h on the start/finish straight after running over debris left by a collision between two slower cars.

In an episode frighteningly similar to Nigel Mansell's escape during the 1986 Australian Grand Prix, Schumacher controlled his wayward three-wheeler and deftly

brought it to a halt at the side of the track. For the second successive season his chances of winning the title for Ferrari had been thwarted.

It was an unfortunate and embarrassing note on which to end Goodyear's 35-year association with motor racing's most senior category, as the tyre company withdrew from Formula One after last Sunday's race following a decision taken last year.

Watched approvingly by his mentor, manager and former world champion Keke Rosberg, the only other Finn to have won the F1 title, back in 1982, the 30-year-old Häkkinen dominated the race with unruffled composure.

"I don't know how to start explaining my feelings," he said. "It was easier than some of the races we have been this year. I have been in much more difficult situations than at this grand prix, but obviously I was aware this morning of the pressure that was falling on me."

"It was disturbing my performance a little bit, which I would say is quite normal, but then I seemed to calm down quite a lot and it was quite easy to control the situation. But there is always one problem when you are leading easily like this — and it happened to me with about 10 laps to go — which is the tendency for your mind to start thinking about other things. I almost started whistling inside the car..."

For Häkkinen, victory represented just reward for a dogged and sometimes disheartening slog through the ranks of the F1 also-rans, which he originally joined

as a member of the Lotus team in 1991.

Two years later he signed as McLaren's official test driver rather than race for the French Ligier squad, and eventually gained promotion to the full-time race team after the IndyCar star Michael Andretti failed to master the complexities of F1 and withdrew from the series before the end of the 1993 season.

His success brought McLaren's tally of grand prix victories to 116 since the team began F1 racing in 1966, only three fewer than Ferrari, who have been competing since 1949.

Ferrari had hoped that Eddie Irvine might be able to play a tactical role in this event where Schumacher had to win without Häkkinen scoring any points from this final race. This was too much of a gamble and, although Irvine made up two places at the start, he simply could not keep pace with the McLaren.

David Coulthard finished third in the other McLaren-Mercedes with Damon Hill's Jordan-Honda forging a path ahead of Heinz-Harald Frentzen's Williams FW20 as they braked for the final chicane on the last lap. It was a bold slice of overtaking, but quite unnecessary.

Hill had fixed in his mind that fourth was absolutely essential to ensure Jordan finished fourth in the constructors' championship. In fact, fifth would have been good enough, but Hill had seemingly ignored that instruction and muscled his way past the startled Williams driver.

Rugby League First Test: G Britain 16 New Zealand 22

Kiwis tame the Lions

Andy Wilson at the McAlpine Stadium

AS HIS nickname suggests, "Hollywood" Bill Harrigan is not a referee who blends into the background. Even at a low-key coaching session in Leeds late last month, the former Sydney policeman, who sprints back his bushy hair for matches these days, and has his own agent and fan club, sported an outrageous pair of leggings.

He was the centre of attention again at Huddersfield last Saturday, but the suggestion that he was responsible for Great Britain's defeat was wide of the mark.

Two Harrigan decisions came under the microscope. At the end of the first half, although the hooter had sounded, he allowed New Zealand's prop Joe Vagana to waltz through a British defence which was already thinking of their oranges.

Then, with Great Britain battering the Kiwi line, having fought back to 22-16 with seconds remaining, he turned down home claims for a penalty try when Robbie Paul tackled Keith Senior in mid-air. Harrigan did award a penalty, although there was at least a case for a penalty try.

Stacey Jones's intelligent kick behind the British defence set up the opening try for Stephen

Keirney in virtually the first Kiwi attack, after 14 minutes. Then, after tries from Great Britain's dangerous left-wing pair of Senior and Paul Newlove had cancelled out Vagana's solo effort, the Paul brothers linked superbly for Jones to scamper over and regain the lead for New Zealand. The pass with which Keirney sent Robbie Paul over seven minutes from time was worthy of winning any Test.

There were no smiles among the Great Britain brains trust of Andy Goodway and Andy Farrell. "It was a game we should have won," they agreed, refusing to blame Harrigan.

The Lions ultimately paid the penalty for a wretched opening in which their attack looked hopelessly confused. That was partially understandable, after only four days working together since the Super League Grand Final. But the selection of Paul Sculthorpe, the St Helens back-row forward, at stand-off did not help.

Great Britain looked a much more potent team after the interval as the playmaking partnership of Farrell and Iestyn Harris began to fulfil its potential, with Tony Smith a revelation at scrum-half throughout. They only improve for the second Test at Bolton on Saturday, and the series is set up nicely.

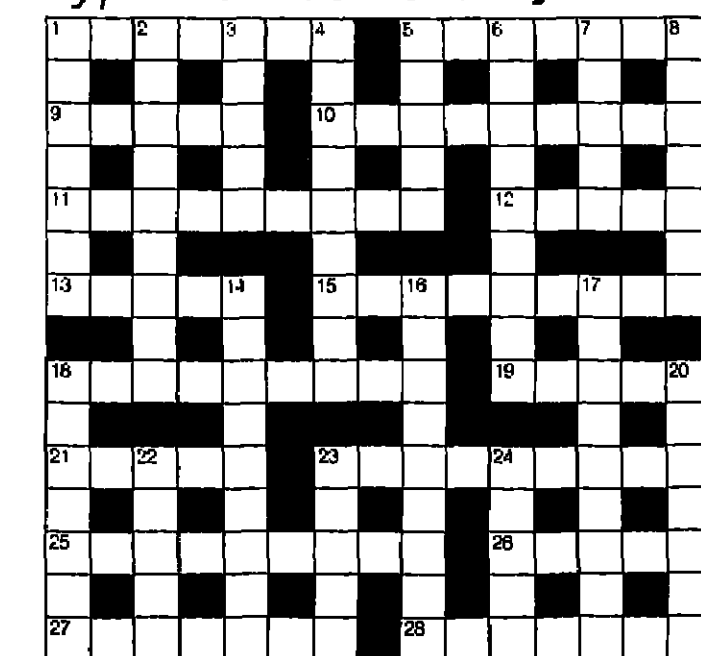
Down

- 1 Having arms spread by embracing (7)
- 2 Common stake produces fruit (9)
- 3 All make sounds like a toot (5)
- 4 Did away with fancy red caddis (9)
- 5 Rock scaled by Richter? (5)
- 6 Coming of William, say, in imitation (9)
- 7 Set for the Archers (5)
- 8 Designed as angel food in Italy (7)
- 14 Insomniacs shouldn't count sheep with these numbers (9)
- 16 They pay attention to 7 (9)
- 17 What's before you daily (9)
- 18 Most Richard Tauber records contain this bird (7)
- 20 Rye runs out where new grass grows (7)
- 22 Release a French writer (5)
- 23 Fine (Scottish) line for argument (5)
- 24 Remove monarch as head of England (5)

Last week's solution

DOFFIN PSYCHE
A A A A A A A
B B B B B B B
C C C C C C C
D D D D D D D
E E E E E E E
F F F F F F F
G G G G G G G
H H H H H H H
I I I I I I I
J J J J J J J
K K K K K K K
L L L L L L L
M M M M M M M
N N N N N N N
O O O O O O O
P P P P P P P
Q Q Q Q Q Q Q
R R R R R R R
S S S S S S S
T T T T T T T
U U U U U U U
V V V V V V V
W W W W W W W
X X X X X X X
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y
Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

Cryptic crossword by Rover



Across

- 1 Obstinate dog bite festered (7)
- 5 Schism, as Queen initially reforms English liturgy (7)
- 9 Wide-awake dealer tries holding it (5)
- 10 Wild steps made for sudden stock movements (9)
- 11 One to be chosen from plain and fancy tea (9)
- 12 Between morning, half-noon, and midnight (5)
- 13 Long for story about Fourth of June (5)
- 16 Lance laid carelessly caused delay (9)

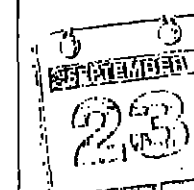
Down

- 18 Spin in deliveries is more important (5)
- 19 Daisy seen in place where Ayrshires go wandering (5)
- 21 See Cornish mystery tour-it (5)
- 23 Queen's curator? (9)
- 25 Throw suspicion on pet I claim mischievous (9)
- 26 Daily recipe for health in the eye? (5)
- 27 He lands awkwardly for his first gift (7)
- 28 Utterly shy about dancing reel (7)

The Guardian Weekly

Vol 159, No 20
Week ending November 15, 1998

A tale of two American catastrophes



CRISIS IN WALL STREET:
A hedge fund totters and the West organises a \$3.5 billion rescue package



Traders on Wall Street caught up in September's dealing frenzy, left, while two-year-old Felix Silva cries at a Nicaragua shelter



CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
Over 10,000 are dead, millions are homeless, and the West organises a \$200 million rescue package



PHOTOGRAPHS: MITCH JACOBSON (left) and OSWALDO RIVAS

Larry Elliott

ALL the Masters of the Universe were there on the night of Wednesday, September 23. Gathered in the panelled elegance of the 10th floor boardroom of the Federal Reserve, 14 of Wall Street's elite were given their instructions by William McDonough.

The boss of the New York Fed put it simply: stump up \$3.5 billion to bail out the teetering hedge fund, Long-Term Capital Management, or run the risk of what Bill Clinton has called "the biggest threat to the global financial system in 50 years".

There were no Masters of the Universe in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa this week. Just dead bodies piling up and a \$2 billion dollar repair bill. Two weeks ago, when the worst flood in Central America for 200 years engulfed Nicaragua, El

Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, President Clinton offered \$2 million — less than one of Wall Street's big hitters could net in an average year.

Last week, 10 days after Hurricane Mitch had unleashed its deluge, the White House increased its offer. With more than 10,000 dead, thousands more missing, and 2 million made homeless, Mr Clinton ordered an extra \$30 million from the defence budget to fly in troops to help with the emergency and \$36 million for food, fuel and other aid.

This has been the story of two disasters, one averted and one real. In the first, the central bank of the world's most powerful country banged heads together to prevent the stupidity and greed of a hedge fund throwing the banking system into chaos. One of LTCM's bets was on the path of European long-term interest rates — a massive gamble

that went spectacularly wrong when Russia defaulted. Whereas most homeowners in Britain can borrow only 2½ times their salary to buy a house, the people running LTCM had an exposure of \$900 billion — 250 times the fund's capital base.

But once the scale of possible LTCM losses became known, the response was purposeful and determined. And it worked. All ideas that governments should not intervene in free markets were tossed out of the New York Fed's 10th floor windows as officials around the world thrashed out a rescue package.

For the past two weeks, hungry and ill people have been huddled in trees above the flood waters, tying their children to branches to stop them being swept away. In Honduras, the worst affected, almost 60 per cent of the country is under water, and 75 per cent of agriculture has

been destroyed. In Nicaragua, thousands were swept away in the mudslide from the Casita crater collapse. At least half the country is severely affected by flooding.

So far there has been no co-ordinated response from the international community. The World Bank has sent \$15 million to Honduras and Nicaragua as immediate aid, and has started negotiations to convert \$300 million allocated for relief projects.

By Monday night the European Union had pledged nearly \$100 million in aid. There have been promises of help. There has been hand-wringing aplenty.

On Monday night the 10th floor boardroom at the New York Fed was bathed in darkness. The Masters of the Universe had gone home to enjoy their well-earned rest.

Apocalypse now, page 4

Law on couples splits France 3

Gingrich falls prey to the cannibals 6

Blair puts faith in the family 10

Arafat's betrayal of his people 12

Austria	ASSO	Malta	60c
Belgium	BF80	Netherlands	G 6
Denmark	DK17	Norway	NK 18
Finland	FM 10	Portugal	E300
France	FF 14	Saudi Arabia	SR 6.50
Germany	DM 4	Spain	P 300
Greece	DR 600	Sweden	SK 19
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INTERNATIONAL

Hypocrites swell ranks of Pinochet apologists

ACCORDING to Charles Krauthammer, General Pinochet's arrest is "a blow for the most ideologically selective justice, and the rankiest hypocrisy" (November 1).

The thread of his "argument" — little more than a succession of bitter innuendoes — appears to be that since the likes of Jiang, Castro, Arafat, Franco and De Klerk have not yet had their collars felt, it is hypocritical to arrest Pinochet or to cheer this rare display of due process relatively unhampered by politics. I for one will cheer on regardless, smugly aware that indulging in even the rankiest hypocrisy is a small sin compared with systematic torture, mass murder and the terrorisation of an entire nation.

Perhaps the Pinochet case will set a trend. Henceforth, perhaps the perpetrators of atrocities will be held accountable for their crimes regardless of whether they are, or subsequently become, senior officials of state. Perhaps the demands of justice will take precedence over those of diplomacy and *realpolitik*. Now seems as good a time as any to launch this new world order, and the Pinochet case would set an

excellent precedent. Krauthammer would rather this didn't happen. He condones the example of post-Franco Spain, which he characterises as "amnesia" and "turning a blind eye on the past" for "the sake of social peace".

The only exception, his simple rule of thumb states, is "when you win total victory over an evil regime". Under this logic, if the Allies had merely fought the Nazis to a stand-off, leaving Hitler in power, we would have had no business arresting the retired Führer or his cronies during a London sojourn in the 1960s for complicity in the deaths of millions of civilians in concentration camps.

Essentially, Krauthammer implies that the justification for pursuing the prime architects of the Holocaust rests on the fact that "we" won a total victory over the evil Nazis. That is an insult to the victims and their families and a very dangerous line of reasoning. There can be no international amnesia or amnesty for people who commit atrocities on the scale of Pinochet's butchery, not to mention the Holocaust, Soviet and Chinese mass killings or the more recent geno-

cides in East Timor, Cambodia, Rwanda and the Balkans. If nations cannot bring their own butchers to justice, international institutions must be fashioned to do the job.

Krauthammer's sneering at "arm-chair moralists" and the European left is a pathetic and mean-spirited attempt to obscure the role of his corporate masters in creating and supporting tyrants such as Pinochet, training and arming their torturers and exploiting their subject peoples for profit. Like his rule of thumb, it's very simple. If Pinochet were to go on trial, United States foreign policy would be in the dock. And that might expose some very rank hypocrisy indeed.

Tim Groves,
Kyoto, Japan

ANDREW RAWNSLEY (Weasel words from Pinochet's apologists, November 1) answers very nicely the pure right ideology of Charles Krauthammer. The real hypocrisy is that of governments who sign international agreements about human rights and crimes against humanity, and then do nothing to enforce them.

It would be nice if all those responsible for mass murder and torture could be made to pay for their crimes. Unfortunately justice doesn't work that way; it is rather like a symphony, composed one note at a time. Pinochet's arrest is one such note, beautifully clear; no matter what, it will be part of the symphony of justice for ever.

Tom Edwards,
Bromont, Quebec, Canada

SHOULD not the United Nations draw up an international list of *personae non gratae*, putting undesirable rulers on notice that they will be liable to prosecution should they stray from their own shores?

This might end the nauseating notion of characters such as Mobutu and Amin spending their ill-gotten gains in Harrods.

Peter Whitehead,
London

US democracy a media myth

THE biennial elections in the United States are cause for a great deal of hot air and a tremendous expenditure of time, money and resources. One thing that the two parties (Democrats and Republicans, who have instituted themselves into permanency) have in common is the arrogant claim that this exercise is the best demonstration of the world's "greatest democracy" in action. And, sadly, the minority of the citizenry that even cares enough to vote buys this hook, line and sinker.

Other than at the local levels — and even here it is the exception rather than the rule — the elections across the country are neither truly representative nor participatory. Consider the following facts:

- A candidate needs \$1 million or more in major state and national races in order to be heard and seen;
- Only two parties have the significant wherewithal to field candidates. This can hardly represent the aspirations and hopes of the diversity of people in this country. In particular, there is no voice that speaks for the poor, the minorities and the working class because the candidates, by the previous fact, are from and for the upper classes;

□ Any meaningful difference between the two parties erodes as one goes from local to state to national to international issues because of the absurd desire for bipartisanship;

- Less than 50 per cent of the electorate participates in the elections, and even fewer from the minority communities. This is not surprising given the Hobson's choice presented to the voters;
- The elected leaders are mainly beholden to their rich contributors, special interests which influence voting blocs and ultra-right organisations such as the National Rifle Association, the Cuban-American National Foundation or the American-Israeli Political Action Committee.

This is the farce that continues in this country, and that is proclaimed from the roof tops by its elected plutocrats to be the finest example of all society. The mass media perpetuates this myth, glorifies it and recommends it to the rest of the world. Not surprising, considering that they come from the same ranks.

(Dr) N. Sadeh,
Central Connecticut State University,
New Britain, Connecticut, USA

Working women poorly rewarded

IT IS good that the Guardian Weekly is allowing some space for the issue of gender discrimination (Jobs for the boys? October 25). One does not have to be a rampant feminist these days to be concerned; one simply has to have worked in the commercial world for a reasonable period.

Indeed, the position of women these days seems increasingly like that of the horse in Animal Farm. We go on thinking that if we just work harder our rewards will come. Instead, some of us will end up in the knacker's yard, more elegantly described as victims of the glass ceiling.

I have heard it suggested that women are not as good at negotiating their salaries as men. Funny enough, the best explanation I can come up with derives from something my mother said to me when I was young. When I asked her why I was always sent to the greengrocers (in those days children could go out alone and families had accounts with local shops) and not my brothers, she explained that I "made less fuss" when asked to go.

This was borne out recently when I discovered that I am earning 37 per cent less (after tax) than the other (male) expatriates I work with. They received substantial pay rises on the basis that a new expatriate was being recruited at a much higher salary and they might "make a fuss" if they were not on equal packages.

I am a solicitor with a PhD in psychology from the University of Cambridge and 10 years of financial services' experience. I do not have children, and work is a central part of my life. It would be hard to argue that I am not amply qualified for the kind of work I do, and yet it appears that I cannot hope to earn as much as my male colleagues.

As I get older and head towards that other problem (ageism) I can only hope that my three nieces (aged 13, 11 and 4) will be as baffled as I am by my experiences when they are my age, not because they cannot explain gender discrimination, but because they have simply not come across it.

(Dr) Carole A. Cotter,
Gibraltar and London

Briefly

THE most dangerous feature of Lord Jenkins's proposals (Jenkins redraws the political map, November 8) is that up to 120 MPs would be selected not on a constituency basis, under the present FPTP system, but from lists drawn up by a committee mostly manned by those subservient to the party leadership.

As the selection of candidates for next year's European Parliament elections shows, it would mean that anyone one inch left of centre would have no chance.

Frank Allam,
Manchester

THOROUGHLY understand the reasoning behind Roy Jenkins's proposals to reform Britain's voting system, but if they led to the messiness of the Australian political system they would do harm. Tony Blair will be very wise to take his time.

(Prof) Edward Black,
North Manly, NSW, Australia

JENNIFER BALFOUR'S "Letter from Uzbekistan" (November 1) is marvellous and is the stuff of which long series are made. I can be the only reader who is dying to follow the experiences of this intrepid girl: what on earth will she make of "civilisation"? Will she survive unscathed? Will she return to take up her life as before like the Furgans of the Beagle? Please can you lean on Ms Balfour to continue what she has begun? Better still: might Zamira write her own Letter from England?

Pat Anderson,
Richmond, North Yorks

I WAS surprised that John Ryle (The trouble with Americans, October 18) did not offer the obvious substitute for "American" to describe US citizens. "User", though inelegant, seems remarkably appropriate.

Trevor Dandy,
Winnipeg, Canada

I WAS in a Chinese restaurant in Madrid the other day, and an Indian businessman's mobile phone kept ringing at length to the tune of "Scotland The Brave". Is this what globalisation is all about, or is it just that the SNP is more powerful than I thought?

Guy Hill,
Madrid, Spain

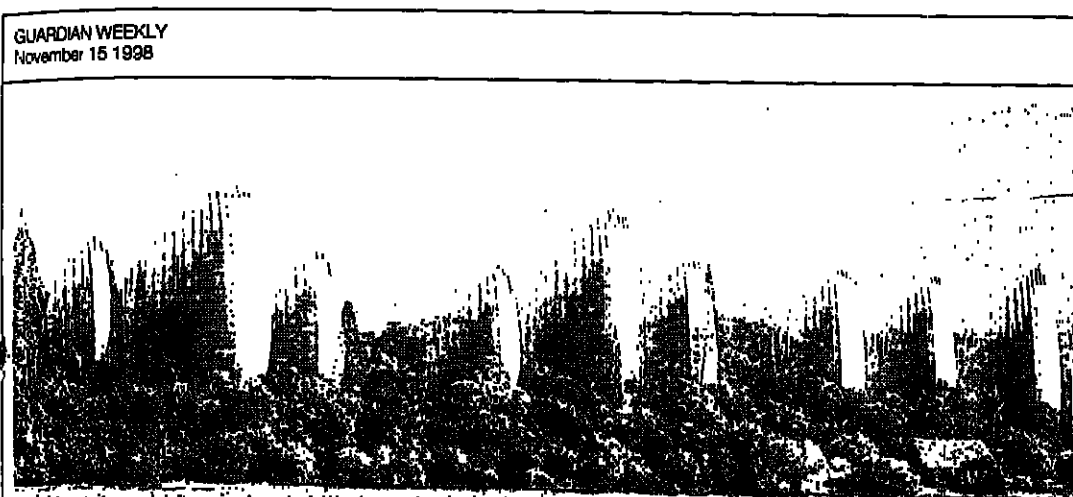
CONGRATULATIONS to Senator John Glenn on an achievement which proves the resilience and capacity of the elderly. Use our experience. Don't write us off.

A T Goodman (aged 79),
Southport, Merseyside

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GUARDIAN WEEKLY
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The New Caledonian cultural centre's futuristic egg-shaped structures

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAPANTZ

Cultural centre symbolises island's birth

Christopher Zinn
in New Caledonia

MORE than 70 per cent of New Caledonians backed an historic referendum last Sunday to grant the formerly troubled French Pacific territory more autonomy from Paris, before a final vote is taken on independence.

The decision could also be seen as a vote of confidence in the most spectacular structure to be built in the South Pacific since the Sydney Opera House — the Centre Culturel Tjibaou, which opened recently near the territory's capital, Noumea.

The futuristic and traditional

structure was a \$58 million peace offering from the French government to the Kanak islanders who waged a struggle against settlers between 1984 and 1988 in which almost 50 people died.

The complex, based on tribal buildings and designed by a leading Italian architect, Renzo Piano, was named after the Kanak leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou, who was assassinated in 1989 by separatist extremists after signing a pact to avoid a civil war.

The Kanaks of New Caledonia speak 28 different languages and have seen their traditional culture and population growth

stunted by French colonisation. The original accord signed between Tjibaou's pro-independence Front de la Libération Nationale des Kanaks Socialistes party, and the French loyalist Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République group in 1988 were meant to correct the social and economic disparity between the Kanaks and the Europeans, who make up 34 per cent of the population. Last Sunday's referendum was the start of a 20-year timetable in the transition to what is described as a shared sovereignty. France will now cede a range of powers to the islands before the final vote.

Carlos on hunger strike

CARLOS the Jackal, once the world's most wanted terrorist after a string of sensational attacks around the world during the seventies and early eighties, on Tuesday was on the sixth day of a potentially life-threatening hunger strike.

He has refused all food and liquids and, according to his lawyer, is prepared to go "to the fateful end".

President Jacques Chirac has warned that Carlos is prepared to die unless he is taken out of solitary confinement in the Paris jail where he is serving a life sentence for murder. His lawyer, François Vuillemin, said that he was already weak and dehydrated but remained "completely determined".

"No prisoner in republican and democratic France has had to undergo such extreme moral torture," Mr Vuillemin wrote to the president. "This man has been buried alive. Without imploring, since he is not one to beg, he appeals through me to your conscience, Mr President, to stop this measure now, and return to him the dignity of a man deprived of his liberty."

Carlos, born Illich Ramirez Sanchez in Venezuela 49 years ago, has been held in total isolation at the capital's La Santé jail since August 16, 1994, two days after his arrest and abduction from the Sudan by French secret service agents.

Sentenced to life in prison late last year for the murder of two French policemen in 1975, the former pro-Palestinian terrorist is blamed for more than 80 deaths and hundreds of injuries around the world.

Police testimony dents sex case against Anwar

John Gittings
and John Aglionby

THE prosecution case in Malaysia against the former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, wobbled seriously last week with the release of a special branch report saying he had been the victim of a smear campaign.

The report, submitted to the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, in August last year, said that sexual allegations against Mr Anwar were "baseless, and more dependent on imagination and assumption".

The prosecution's case — now being loudly backed in public statements by Dr Mahathir — is that Mr Anwar was guilty of "sexual misconduct", and had sought to cover it up by instructing the special branch to "neutralise" his accusers.

But after a week of evidence from the special branch chief, Mohamad said Anwar's testimony was "very credible" and that the "truth" was that the version is true. His credibility was damaged on Thursday last week when he admitted that he might lie to the court if told to do so by government ministers.

The report of August 18, 1997 detailed the motives which had led Umni Hafid Ali, the sister of Mr Anwar's private secretary, and his former driver, Azizian Abu Bakar, to accuse him of illegal sexual acts.

Ms Umni is said to have levelled the charge because she suspected that her sister-in-law was having an affair with Mr Anwar. The driver is also said to have been antagonised by the sister-in-law's "arrogant attitude".

The report says, without going into detail, that "there are indications that there exists a certain group that may have their own agenda... to smear [Mr Anwar]".

Mr Anwar's defence team claims that a much more specific report, dated two weeks later, identified senior political figures as belonging to this group, including Dr Mahathir's close associate and economic adviser, Daim Zaiduddin.

The judge, Augustine Paul, has asked the prosecution to try to obtain a copy of this second report.

On Monday Mr Mohamad said told the court he could not remember a second report. But a source close to the defence team said after the court adjourned: "Anwar remembers seeing the second report, although he was never allowed to keep a copy of it. We are determined to find it and prove his innocence."

The surfacing of this political scandal in which the reports were produced, will confirm the view of many Malaysians that the case is about power struggles in the ruling elite, and not about sexual behaviour between consenting adults.

Only four charges of corruption — involving Mr Anwar's alleged attempt to force his accusers to retract their allegations of sexual misconduct — are currently being heard.

Another charge of corruption, and five counts of alleged sodomy, are unlikely to be heard until the beginning of the new year. After that, Malaysia's attorney-general has suggested that more charges may be preferred.

French right up in arms over new law

Jon Henley in Paris

A NEW expression has entered the French language. It is only a joke at present, but soon it will have a more serious meaning. "Voulez-vous passer avec moi?" giggling teenagers are asking their partners. Roughly, it means "do you want to enter into a Civil Solidarity Pact with me?"

The Civil Solidarity Pact — better known by its French acronym Pacs — is a thoroughly modern piece of legislation introduced by a Socialist-led government keen to prove its leftwing credentials. Some fear it will change society more radically than any bill since the Abortion Act a quarter of a century ago.

Currently midway through the National Assembly, Pacs has been the subject of some of the most violent scenes parliament has witnessed in decades. Originally inspired by gay rights campaigners, it will give legal recognition to cohabiting couples of whatever sex, allowing them to file joint tax returns, share common property rights and enjoy the same social welfare and inheritance advantages as families.

It will in effect sanction gay marriage, argue its opponents, which include the Catholic Church and the conservative opposition. The latter has tabled nearly 1,000 amendments.

Speaking for them, Christine Boutin, a Gaullist deputy who filibustered against the bill for five-and-a-half hours, said it opened the door to moral decline and represented an unholy attack on the family, the institution of marriage, the child and the state itself. "The Pacs", she declared, "is a disgrace to this country."

Others have gone further. An

ultra-conservative group called the Future of Culture has bombarded the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, with 60,000 postcards saying the plan amounts to "a choice for a decadent society that will destroy the remains of civilisation still separating us from barbarism".

Rundamentalist Catholics are praying in churches and convents for the bill's defeat, and posters in the Paris Metro warn of the family's imminent collapse.

That is not, however, the way its supporters see it. Pacs — they argue — is a long-overdue recognition of modern life in France, a once deeply Catholic country where more than 40 per cent of children are now born out of wedlock.

The government says the law will help not only young couples, gay and straight, but also senior citizens or relatives who, for example, decide to pool their resources.

Unmarried couples living together in France currently get a raw deal. They are essentially treated as individuals, meaning they pay substantially more tax than a married couple and can also face severe problems of legal recognition with pensions, inheritance and life insurance if they separate or if one of the partners dies. Pacs could cost the government \$1.5 billion a year in lost tax.

According to a recent poll, 70 per cent of the population favours the plan for heterosexuals, with 49 per cent support for homosexuals.

"Pacs is not about marriage, homosexual or heterosexual," insists the justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou. "We are simply talking about a contract which will give legal security to people who cannot or do not want to get married."

Biall backs family, page 10

Yugoslavia 'a fugitives haven'

Chris Bird in Belgrade

YUGOSLAVIA is a haven for suspected war criminals hiding from international justice, a senior United States official said this week, adding that any attempt to shelter anyone indicted for war crimes was "futile".

Western states have used demands on Kosovo to pressure Yugoslavia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, to allow jurisdiction for the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague to investigate crimes and arrest suspects in present-day Yugoslavia.

The tribunal and the US are pushing Mr Milosevic to hand over three Serbs who they say are in Yugoslavia. The court issued arrest warrants in 1996 for army officers Mile Mrkic, Miroslav Radic and Veselin Slijepcanin, known as the "Vukovar Three", for the slaughter of 280 unarmed men in the Croatian town of Vukovar in 1991.

David Scheffer, US ambassador at large for war crimes issues, said Yugoslavia was advertising itself to the world as a "haven" for war crimes indictees from The Hague.

"It would not surprise me if there were other indictees enjoying similar sanctuary in the Yugoslav authorities," he said when asked if former Bosnian Serb president, Radovan Karadzic, and his army

commander, General Ratko Mladic, might be in Serbia.

"No one should be in doubt that Karadzic and Mladic will be brought to The Hague," he said. "It is our hope that Yugoslavia recognises the futility of providing sanctuary to anyone indicted for war crimes."

Earlier Louise Arbour, the tribunal's chief prosecutor, was denied permission to travel with 10 others to investigate alleged war crimes in Serbia's mainly ethnic Albanian province of Kosovo.

Mr Milosevic has refused to hand over the Vukovar Three and has negotiated on a promise made to the US negotiator, Richard Holbrooke, to grant UN investigators access to sevic-Holbrooke talks had led to confusion about the war crimes tribunal's jurisdiction, which she said was clear. A UN Security Council resolution in 1993 gave the tribunal jurisdiction across all of former Yugoslavia.

"We've already had investigative missions in Kosovo; they weren't covert, they've issued visas in the past," Ms Arbour said. "The genesis of this present blunder is down to the Milosevic-Holbrooke deal. It was reported that Milosevic didn't concede the court jurisdiction — the rhetoric was upgraded by Belgrade to say we had no jurisdiction over Kosovo."

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Newt's departure leaves bitter taste



Washington diary

Martin Kettle

NINE years ago, a then unknown Republican congressman from Georgia launched a crusade against the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Jim Wright of Texas. Against the advice of his party colleagues, and to the unforgiving anger of the Democrats, the man from Georgia forced a series of ethics allegations to a congressional inquiry, which in turn compelled Speaker Wright to resign. In his valedictory speech, Wright turned on his relentless pursuer. "Mindless cannibalism," he said, had taken over in American politics.

Well, as a motherly grand juror said when she tried to comfort a weeping Monica Lewinsky in a Washington courthouse earlier this year, what goes around comes around. On Friday last week, that same Georgia congressman resigned as Speaker too, just like Wright before him. And, in a conference call with some of the people he had previously regarded as his own closest allies, he spoke bitterly of the Republican conservatives who had blackmailed him into quitting. They were, he announced, "cannibals".

In his political career, Newt Gingrich lived by the sword and died by the sword. That career ended last week in the kind of ruthless and un sentimental piece of political arithmetic that was both Gingrich's strength and his weakness. He added up the votes and saw that he would lose. So, with an equally characteristic petulance, Gingrich resigned not just as Speaker but also from Congress itself, to which he had been re-elected — with a record share of the poll — less than 72 hours previously.

It was, said a New York Times editorial, a stunning moment in American politics, and for once the overused adjective seems appropriate. For this is truly a turning point, not merely for the party battle of the Clinton years, but even more for the future of the Republican party, and above all for rightwing politics in the modern world.

Gingrich himself would not demur from seeing his fall in both global and epochal terms. For both politicians of our era have had a more explicit — some may say a more deluded — sense of their own historic significance than Gingrich. This is the man who proudly delighted in his claim to be famous in Mongolia, who described himself as "a revolutionary", and who looked a reporter in the eye on the eve of his 1994 triumph and announced "I think I am a transformational figure".

Clutching his Contract With America in his fist, he told the American people, "We are going to change the world".

Gingrich has always made his claim on history to the descendant of his own bungling. He is half Napoleon, half Homer Simpson. When Gingrich shut down the government in 1995, Bill Clinton, in some respects his *doppelgänger*, drew the Speaker on and then cut him to pieces. When Gingrich fastened on to the Lewinsky scandal as his chosen issue for the rematch, Clinton adopted a more-a-dope strategy favoured by the ageing Muhammad Ali, waiting until Gingrich exhausted himself before delivering the knock-out punch.

From beginning to end, the orchestration of the impeachment inquiry and this year's mid-term election was Gingrich's campaign. Rooted in a revolutionary culture that spurns compromise, his ambitious aim, once he had decided on it in the spring, was nothing less than to bring Clinton down.

To that end Gingrich personally dictated the whole impeachment timetable on Capitol Hill this autumn, publishing the Starr report and then the Clinton video, driving his party to vote for the impeachment inquiry as the curtain-raising event of the election season. Lacking sufficient Senate votes to convict Clinton on a purely partisan basis, Gingrich staked everything on redressing the imbalance through voter power.

Little more than a week before-hand, the Republican commander-in-chief launched a final offensive in an election campaign whose focused purpose was to dislodge Clinton's grip on the presidency. According to Gingrich's war plan, the November 3 election would provide the extra congressional votes, the popular electoral mandate and the political momentum that would finally drive his great rival from office. Campaigning on the frontlines, fundraising across the nation, and rarely returning to Georgia, Gingrich gambled on the impeachment issue in the final days of the election, pitching \$10 million worth



Coffas

of anti-Clinton television ads at viewer-voters in the two dozen key states and congressional districts where the election would be decided.

The result, like Waterloo, was a damn close-run thing. Overall, very little changed in these mid-term elections. The balance of power in the House, the Senate and among the nation's 50 governors, remains basically the same. And yet enough changed in this war of position for Clinton, whose party won fewer votes, fewer seats and fewer states than Gingrich's, to emerge triumphant.

It bears repeating. If only to prevent the 1998 mid-terms being falsely described as "a Democratic victory", that it was the Republican party which won on November 3. Not only did the Republicans win but they won for the third time in a row. A comparison of today's electoral map with that following the

first Clinton victory year of 1992 shows that the 1990s have been a decade of great Republican success.

But this year's victory was pyrrhic, because Gingrich had staked all on securing Republican gains that never materialised, and because the Democrats won all but two of the most closely contested seats in the Senate, made a tidy gain in the House, and swept up a tidy clutch of state governorships, in which influence-rich California was the most glittering prize of all. In less antagonistic years, such a result might not have had such resonance. But Gingrich, more than anyone in recent years, has nationalised US congressional elections, casting them as defining contests about the direction of America.

By this yardstick, November 3 was a catastrophe for Gingrich. In this party political context, he perished as a sectarian leader. This was an election where the biggest Democratic winners — Gray Davis in California, Chuck Schumer in New York, Evan Bayh in Indiana, and John Edwards in North Carolina — captured the centre ground and then forced their opponents back into the margins, casting them as obsessive and divisive, whether on impeachment, education, or abortion (which was in many respects the defining issue of many of these contests). These contests were models of Clintonian strategy.

Yet although Democrats and liberal Republicans tend naturally to cast Gingrich as a divisive figure, he fell because most Republicans saw him as too accommodating to the White House. The party recognised, too late, that their own, and Gingrich's, obsession with the Lewinsky-Starr impeachment issues had failed to galvanise Republican voters. As a result many of Gingrich's troops, and most of the candidates now seeking to replace him, argue that the system has been set not by being too rightwing but by not being rightwing enough. In British Conservative terms, this party battle is the equivalent of the Major-Redwood contest of 1996, not the Thatcher-Heseltine contest of 1990.

HERE is 1998's greatest irony. With Gingrich out of the way, the likelihood now is that the Republican party will not learn the true lesson of the mid-term elections — that if they cede the centre ground to moderate Democrats they will lose. On the contrary, the party is in the process of trying to persuade itself that the only thing wrong with the Republican agenda was that Gingrich was a divisive personality. Gingrich himself saw this very clearly last week before he resigned, when he protested that he was under challenge from "people who in fact would take the party to a narrower base, with fewer members".

Gingrich is right about that, just as he was right when he warned that the whole party needed to learn from the elections, not him alone. But will that happen? The Bush brothers of Texas and Florida notwithstanding, the signs are that it will not.

For distinctively American reasons, the Republican party is only now confronting the general conservative crisis of the late 1990s — a crisis in that conservative parties have been much slower than their social democratic rivals to understand the needs and mentality of the times.

In good economic times, voters do not want ideological obsessions, and in bad economic times they want the reassurance that their governments will look after them.

The parties of the left, including the US Democrats, have positioned themselves in this territory, as the British Conservatives, the Gaullists, and the Christian Democratic parties of Germany and Italy have all found to their electoral cost. Now the Republicans have found it too. Yet, apart from the Conservatives, no rightwing party has been as determinedly ill-prepared for this change as the Republicans.

Gingrich partly understood this problem. Few of his colleagues have even thought about it. Let alone drawn any conclusions from it. The Republicans lost last week because they stopped listening to the majority of voters. If they do not start doing so again very soon, they could become the American equivalent of the Tory party — toothless cannibals.

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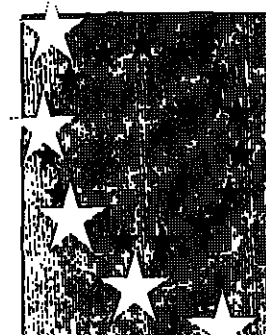
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Gingrich praised Gingrich as a man of "Churchillian proportions", but made it clear he did not share the former Speaker's confrontational style. "He is a revolutionary. I am a manager."

Washington Post, page 17

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Three voices are better than one



Europe this week

Martin Walker

THE European Commission has invoked the Holy Trinity to help it out of the mess that the coming of the euro is about to inflict on the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrial nations, the International Monetary Fund and other international forums where the single currency is supposed to speak with a single voice.

The Commission formally voted last week that as well as the national governments which are members of the European Union, these international bodies should henceforth also welcome representatives from the European Central Bank (ECB), the Commission and the European Council of Ministers.

"They will speak with a single voice. Three in one and one in three," said Europe's monetary affairs commissioner, Yves-Thibault de Silguy. "It is like the mystery of the Eternal Trinity. At least the Trinity works."

United States officials, who already grumble at being outnum-

bered in the G7 by four European countries (Britain, France, Germany and Italy), are trying to get to grips with the implications of the Commission proposal for various international bodies, which the Europeans seem intent on dominating through sheer weight of numbers.

"Let me get this right," said one disbelieving US diplomat. "They already have four seats on the G7 and they want three more for their banker, their bureaucrat and some other guy from a country most Americans couldn't find on a map. I guess they'll also want us to pay the hire for a bigger room."

The Commission proposal has yet to go before the IMF and the G7 and the other international bodies where the euro zone seeks to be represented. When it does, the US, Japan and Canada are likely to vote against any such extension of the European numbers in the G7, which leaves the casting vote with Britain. Since the first test of the European plan will come before the next meeting of G7 finance ministers, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, may find himself torn between his European and his transatlantic loyalties.

The Commission got into this mess because the EU's smaller countries made it clear that they did not entirely trust the G7 members in the euro zone — France, Italy and Germany — to represent their interests. So when one of them holds the rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers, as Finland will do next year, its finance minister should go too, along with Wim Duisenberg, head of the ECB, and De Silguy for the Commission.

The Commission plan seems so deliberately complex that a cynic

(or a worried British Chancellor who sees yet another sign of Britain being marginalised because of its delay in joining the euro zone) might ask if they were hoping to wreck the G7 in order to hasten the coming of a new G3 of the dollar, yen and euro. Perish the thought, says the Commission: nothing could be further from our minds. But of course, they add behind their hands, if our British friends come to understand the advantages that come from joining the euro, so much the better.

The British government certainly does understand. Brown, who grew happily accustomed this year to taking the chair at G7 finance ministers' meetings and much enjoyed his six months' chairing the Ecofin committee of Europe's 15 finance ministers when Britain held the European presidency, loathes the way that he has to leave the room when the 11 finance ministers of the euro zone want to discuss euro affairs.

Brown wants Britain in. And last week he and the British Trade Secretary, Peter Mandelson, tried to make it look inevitable. Brown announced yet another campaign to get British industry ready for the

euro, and Mandelson said it was no longer a question of joining if the conditions are right, but of when. The current thinking in Downing Street is that Tony Blair must stick to his election promise to hold a referendum on joining the euro during the next parliament.

Ironically, individual British MPs are to have more influence over the new ECB, and thus the euro, than the British government. This is because of a new system agreed last week between the European parliament and the legislative assemblies of the 15 EU member states. This offers a back-door way for the Treasury committee of the House of Commons to hold the ECB to account. The first formal meeting of the European parliament's monetary affairs committee, made up of representatives of the finance and Treasury committees of the national parliaments, agreed to hold joint sessions twice a year in order to co-ordinate their approach to the ECB's annual report and to its annual publication of Broad Economic Guidelines, outlining its policies for the year ahead.

As well as giving Britain an unexpected and useful lever of influence, the new system will also intensify the pressure of the overwhelmingly left-of-centre parliaments across Europe to urge lower interest rates and more jobs-oriented policies on

the orthodox central bankers of Frankfurt. It opens a new front in the looming battle between the monetarist bank and the neo-Keynesian governments in the one democratic forum to which the ECB is required by treaty to explain itself, the European parliament.

The initiative to bring national and European parliaments together to maximise their political influence over the ECB began as an informal scheme by Alan Donnelly, leader of the Labour MEPs. His plan has now been institutionalised by the European parliament's president, Josep Maria Gil-Robles, with a formal and permanent structure, its own budget and secretariat.

"We want to see the detailed and reasoned basis on which monetary policy decisions have been taken. Anything less than this level of transparency will be unacceptable," said German Social Democrat MEP Christa Randzio-Plath, who chairs the European parliament's monetary affairs committee.

"Mr Duisenberg's plan to publish the minutes after 18 years is just not good enough," said Giles Rindice MP, chairman of the Treasury committee in the House of Commons, who attended the meeting at the parliament in Brussels. "If the Bank is going to establish credibility, it has to explain itself clearly and promptly and publicly."

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John Co 116

The Week in Britain James Lewis

Anger as MPs' private lives 'outed' by media

ONE OF Rupert Murdoch's tabloid newspapers, the News Of The World, evidently thought it was in the public interest to "expose" the agriculture minister, Nick Brown, as being homosexual. But Mr Brown, popular among his fellow MPs, won the backing of Downing Street and keeps his job.

That should be the end of the matter. But parts of the media are unlikely to let the subject drop. The Sun, another Murdoch tabloid, demanded: "Tell us the truth, Tony: are we being run by a gay mafia?"

Nine homosexual MPs are now "out", but OutRage!, the campaign group, which estimates that another 30 are hiding their sexuality, argues that the more willing public figures are to come out, the less of an issue homosexuality will become.

Mr Brown's embarrassment arose mainly because he had not told his mother, who is seriously ill, that he is homosexual. In a dignified statement, he admitted to having had a two-year affair with a young man — who had tried to sell the story to the News Of The World — and added: "I had rather hoped I could, like other people, have had a private life that was private."

The BBC was widely criticised the previous week for its ham-fisted attempt to ban discussion about the private life of the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, who had been named on TV as one of two gay members of the Cabinet. Many complained that it smacked of censorship, and even Mr Mandelson did not think it a good idea.

Downing Street, too, came under attack for the way it responded to revelations that the ousted Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, had been attacked and robbed after a "nocturnal encounter" with strangers in a London park.

Although the Prime Minister's office said it knew no more than the little it had been told by Mr Davies, it had actually been briefed in detail by the police about the encounter. Such reactions, it was argued, foster the belief that homosexuality is still an issue in politics, in spite of evidence that it plays a lesser part than some editors suppose.

MYRA Hindley, jailed in 1986 for complicity with Ian Brady in the killing of two young people, was told by three judges of the Court of Appeal that she must spend the rest of her life behind bars.

Although a "tariff" of 30 years had earlier been imposed on her, she has already served 32 years and is now 56 years old.

The judges dismissed her appeal against a ruling by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, that she must spend the rest of her life in prison. Lord Justice Judge said that Hindley's confession in 1987 to two additional murders showed a greater level of involvement with Brady than she had previously confessed to. A whole life tariff was justified.

But Lord Wolff, Master of the Rolls, questioned the use of whole life tariffs — "a newcomer to the penal system" — and thought a time might come when Mr Straw or a successor would reach the conclusion that to free Hindley "would not involve any risk to the public, nor undermine the public's confidence

in the criminal justice system". Hindley is to appeal to the House of Lords and possibly to the European Court of Justice.

PRINCE CHARLES responded angrily to claims, made in a television programme, that he would be privately "delighted" if the Queen were to abdicate because he believes she is too old to modernise the monarchy. He described the suggestion as "deeply offensive".

The idea was not particularly new, and the Queen is generally known to view the monarchy as her lifelong religious duty, sacramentally accepted at her coronation.

"The Queen will always have my abiding admiration and affection, and any suggestion that I wish Her Majesty to abdicate is utterly ridiculous," said her 50-year-old son.

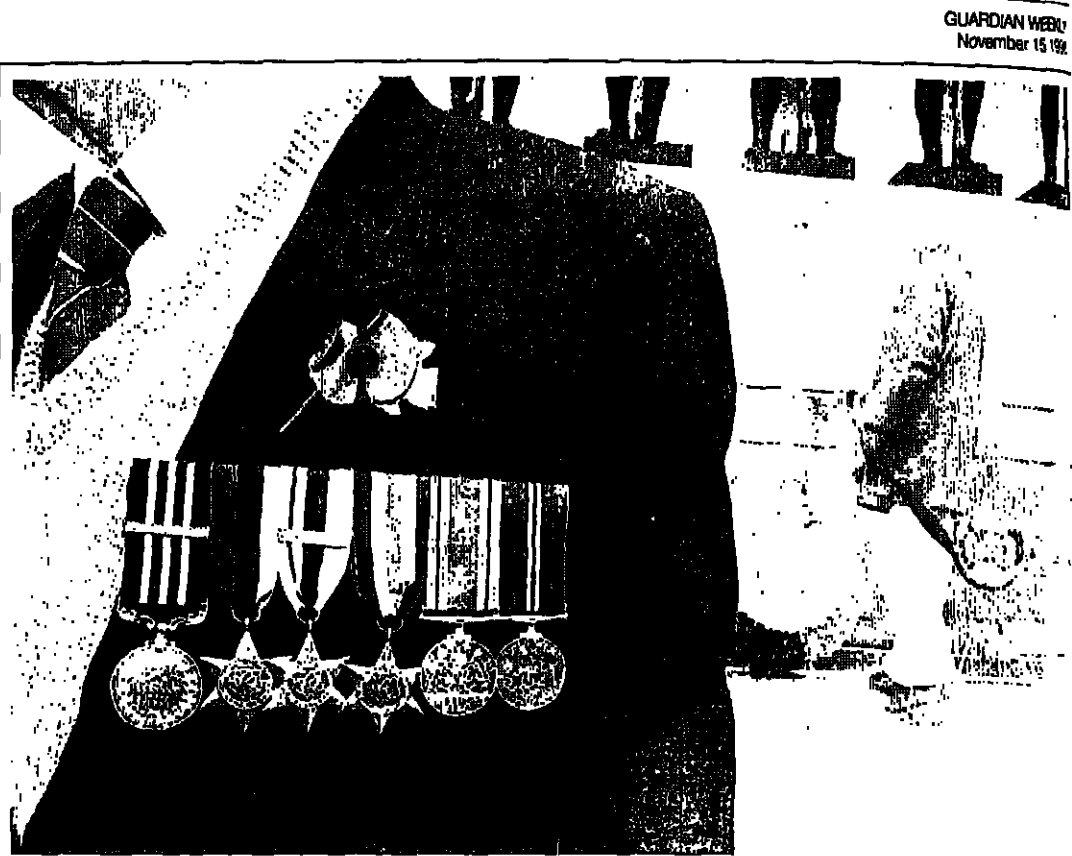
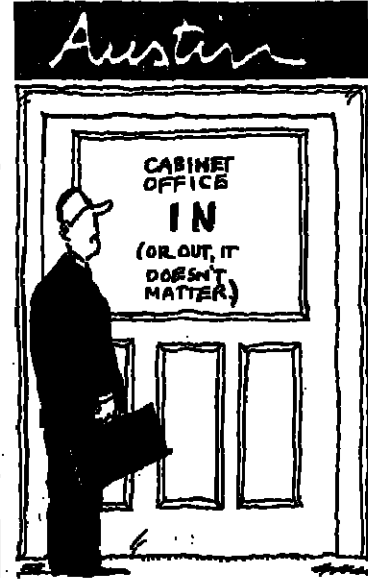
What really seemed to worry him, however, was the source of the story, and an inquiry has been launched to try to uncover the talkative "senior royal aide" to whom the reports were attributed.

SOME OF the 20,000 hospital patients who died last year during or shortly after surgery should never have gone under the knife, according to a report by the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths set up by Government nine years ago.

The report conceded, however, that professionals were under pressure from patients' relatives, who wanted surgery in the belief that "we can work miracles". Anaesthetists also felt under pressure from "optimistic" surgeons whose expectations for patients "can be to a degree unrealistic".

TWO SCOTS Guardsmen who chased an unarmed Catholic teenager through streets in north Belfast before shooting him dead were told they would be allowed to continue their careers in the army.

James Fisher and Mark Wright had been released after serving six years of a life sentence. The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, thought they should be discharged from the army, but the Army Board disagreed, saying the men had committed an error of judgment, which they regretted, at a time when their unit had suffered a fatal casualty.



A veteran at the memorial to the Household Division in Horseguards Parade

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD CLIFF

British war dead found in Russian mass grave

John Ezard and Nick Hopkins

AS REMEMBRANCE services at cenotaphs and memorials across Britain drew their best public turn-out for years, news broke that an 80-year-old mass grave of British servicemen is believed to have been found in northern Russia.

The site in a field near the town of Kandalaksha, south of Murmansk, was described as "a mass burial, we suspect", by the head of the Army Casualty Cell,

George Pappadopoulos. This year the cell, based in Wiltshire, has had a number of outstanding successes in its work of identifying British dead from both world wars and tracing their relatives.

The bodies are regarded as virtually certain to be casualties of Britain's contingent in the intervention force sent to the ports of Murmansk and Archangel in 1918 in a covert bid to reverse the Russian revolution.

The force fought alongside White Russian rebels, who were

smashed by the Bolshevik armies. It went home humiliated, amid recriminations. For 70 years afterwards the issue remained too sensitive for any talk of official war cemeteries.

At the Cenotaph in London last weekend veterans of the Falklands conflict marched past for the first time. Earlier, half a dozen families, some in tears, laid wreaths at the Cenotaph for 306 soldiers executed during the first world war for cowardice or desertion.

Bishop calls for moral lead

Madeleine Bunting

CABINET ministers must lead by example in family policy, and their private lives must conform to the Government's policy of strengthening the family, says the new Bishop of Liverpool.

The Rt Rev James Jones, former suffragan bishop of Hull, praised Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary who resigned last month over a nocturnal encounter in a London park, and insisted that private lives should match public utterances on family policy.

"Ron Davies is a person who did see that his personal life has a bearing on his public office, and he was right to resign. We can expect a particular standard of behaviour from public figures, or we are saying 'do as I say rather than as I do', the bishop said.

When asked if he would have

homosexuals excluded from the Cabinet, Bishop Jones admitted there was a role for individual conscience although he personally believed "homosexuality falls short of God's ideal".

He praised the Government for grasping the importance of reinforcing the family as a vital agent in social cohesion. But his comments appear to advocate a form of sexual McCarthyism, whereby Cabinet ministers must be monogamous married heterosexuals. His comments will cause controversy as politicians' private lives, in line with their constituents', rarely meet the Christian ideal of one partner for life.

By arguing the importance of matching behaviour to policy, Bishop Jones, a committed evangelical, places the Church in a difficult position in its dealings with the Government. Traditionally, senior

figures in the Church of England while promoting the ideal, insist on compassion for those who fail to meet it.

Bishop Jones's commitment to the subject has already triggered controversy. Last spring he was the only bishop publicly to criticise Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, for taking his girlfriend on official trips abroad.

One of the most senior Church of England bishops last week gave public opinion a further nudge on the potential marriage of Prince Charles to Camilla Parker Bowles. In an intervention with more than a hint of testing the water, Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, suggested that the prince would remain acceptable as supreme governor of the Church of England if he formalised his relationship with the divorcee rather than let it remain in a state of flux.

Prisoner wins right to fight to stay with baby

A WOMAN prisoner last week won permission to issue a new legal challenge to the refusal to let her keep her newborn baby in jail, in the first case of its kind, writes Clare Dyer.

The 24-year-old Holloway inmate was given leave to present further arguments in the Court of Appeal on Thursday, after being blocked in the High Court last week when Mr Justice Laws ruled that the case as then framed was unarguable.

The former psychology student from south London gave birth to a girl on Tuesday last week, and is attempting to overturn the decision to refuse her a place in Holloway prison's mother and baby unit.

Three appeal court judges ruled the woman, who is breast feeding her child, was entitled to argue that she had been the victim of "procedural unfairness".

Hospital authorities and Croydon council, which had proposed taking

the baby into care, agreed that mother and child could stay together in hospital, pending the outcome of the appeal.

The governor of Holloway prison, Mike Sheldrick, ruled that a woman, who is serving a five-year sentence for wounding with intent, could not have a place in the unit, only place she can keep her child. She is alleged to have been involved in fighting and bullying but denies the allegations.

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Blair fails to break IRA arms impasse

Nicholas Watt

DOWNING STREET admitted on Monday that the Northern Ireland peace process is facing a serious challenge after Tony Blair failed to break the deadlock over the decommissioning of IRA arms during an hour of talks with Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams.

After the meeting in Downing Street, the Prime Minister's official spokesman issued an appeal to Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists to show goodwill in the hope of maintaining the momentum of the peace process. "We have come too far to fail now," the spokesman said.

His comments came after Mr Adams reiterated his insistence that

republicans would not accept the demand by the Unionist leader, David Trimble, that the IRA must decommission some arms before Sinn Féin can take its place on the Northern Ireland executive.

The Sinn Féin president said his party was entitled to its seats on the basis of its electoral mandate and that Mr Trimble's demand was an unacceptable precondition.

"The very fact that the IRA has taken its weapons out of commission, is on cessation and is maintaining that cessation despite killings by the loyalists, despite the activities of the British forces on the ground, despite the refusal of the unionists to keep their commitment, I think is proof of the goodwill of the IRA to make this peace process work."

He dismissed as nonsense last weekend's reports that the IRA was planning a rare army convention before the end of the year to discuss whether to decommission weapons. Mr Adams said the reports had probably been inspired by British intelligence to "confuse and to make our task rather more difficult".

Mr Adams said republicans were deeply concerned that the October 31 deadline for setting up cross-border bodies had not been met because of the impasse between his party and the Ulster Unionists.

He said the process had been "bogged down quite deliberately" by the unionists. "There is increasing concern within the broad nationalist republican constituency that the refusal to keep to the deadline,

to establish institutions, to move forward on all of these matters, is eroding and corroding confidence in this agreement."

Mr Adams added that he had refrained from using the word "crisis". But he said: "This impasse, if it's not bridged... if people don't keep to the commitments that are made, then we don't have an agreement."

The Government has indicated it hopes that General John De Chastelain, head of the International Decommissioning Body, would find a formula to overcome the impasse. But it is understood the general's staff have made it clear they cannot resolve immediate difficulties because their Good Friday agreement remit is to achieve decommissioning by May 2000.

The Government has also decided to examine the issue of women's pay because evidence shows they are still paid considerably less than men. Among full-time employees, women's hourly earnings are only 80 per cent of men's, according to last year's New Earnings Survey.

Meanwhile the Government is to back plans for the most radical overhaul of sexual equality laws seen for almost 30 years. The Equal Opportunities Commission is calling for a new equality "super law" to reflect the dramatic changes in society in the past few decades and put right the "outdated" laws that exist.

The massive legislative revamp will be the first since the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts in 1970 and 1975.

The Sex Equality bill proposed by the commission would include measures to force employers to dramatically step up monitoring of gender difference in pay and responsibilities. The commission will also recommend a new requirement on public bodies to promote equal opportunities.

The commission argues that current equal pay legislation is still riddled with loopholes, while tribunal cases against employers often drag on for years and, ultimately, can only resolve a problem for the employee bringing the case. It will recommend streamlining and simplification of the process, together with a new provision for "class action". That would allow employees to bring cases as a group, and mean that the outcome would apply to all those affected.

A further recommendation to be included in the law would tighten up rules on organisations and clubs that seek to restrict women's membership.

Comment, page 12



Tessa Jowell, the women's minister, at the launch of Delivering For Women

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Government drive for women's rights

MIDDLE-CLASS children are to be encouraged to report violence against their mothers and sisters at home as part of an initiative by the Government to tackle domestic abuse across all social classes, writes Nicholas Watt.

A television advertisement will target middle-class children by portraying a domestic scene similar to the successful Oxo advertisements, which turns sour when the father verbally abuses his wife.

Helen Liddell, the Scottish Office minister with responsibility for women's issues, said at the launch of

Delivering For Women, the government initiative to improve the lives of women: "Domestic abuse knows no boundaries of social class or social group. We have to dispel the myth that it only occurs in criminal classes or at specific social levels."

On the wider issue of improving women's lives, Baroness Jay of Paddington, the minister for women, said that the Government was determined to sweep away barriers that prevent women from reaching their potential. She cited a series of initiatives launched by the Government in the past year, including improved child care provision and providing more family-friendly employment policies.

Lady Jay announced that the Women's Unit had decided to target teenage girls because research shows they fall behind boys after out-performing them throughout their early years at school.

There has been a substantial improvement in girls' performance at GCSEs and A levels, but "then something seems to happen, and they do not fulfil their earlier potential", said Tessa Jowell, the women's minister in the Commons.

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Finally, the turbulent soul of English poetry is laid to rest

John Ezard

TED HUGHES, the Poet Laureate, was laid to rest last week in a mid-Devon town so peaceful and at a service so gentle that it was impossible for those there to imagine any unquiet sleep for even his turbulent spirit.

Last rites were said over him in the tiny parish church at North Tawton, on the edge of Dartmoor, his family home for 80 years. Two hundred private mourners heard his friend, the

Nobel prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney, splendidly evoke the shock and sorrow at his premature death from colon cancer at the age of 68.

"You have to go back to the death of Dylan Thomas or Lorca to find a time which so expresses that moment when a poet's death is expressed as a breach in nature," Heaney said.

Through this death, "his England is now the England of Langland, Shakespeare and Hopkins". He had become an honoured part of the span of

English poetry from Langland's early work about the land, Piers Plowman, through to the muscular 19th century verse of Gerard Manley Hopkins and beyond.

"No death outside my immediate family has left me feeling more bereft. No death in my lifetime has hurt poets more. He was a tower of tenderness and strength — a great arch under which the least of poetry's children could enter and feel secure."

"His creative powers were, as Shakespeare said, still crescent. By his death, the veil of poetry is

rent and the walls of learning are broken," Heaney said.

To express the bonds his friend had established in this small neck of Devon he also read Hughes's *Go Fishing*, dedicated to Jack Orchard, local farmer and late father of the poet's second wife Carol.

Frieda and Nicholas — Hughes's children by Sylvia Plath — carried the coffin of their father, helped by four other pall-bearers.

Afterwards the poet's body was cremated.

In Brief

MOHAMED Al Fayed agreed to pay costs, estimated at £2 million, plus undisclosed damages, to Josephine Rowland over claims that Mr Fayed ordered her late husband's safety box at Harrods to be broken into.

ANATIONWIDE blacklist to combat disruptive and violent behaviour by air travellers was approved by the industry following the recent attack on stewardess Fiona Weir.

LAWYERS acting for Louise Woodward have asked a US judge to lift a ban on the sale of her story. Meanwhile the Eppens have launched a multi-million dollar damages action against the nanny convicted of killing their son.

MICHAEL Coulton, a Royal Protection squad policeman, was sentenced to life in jail for stabbing and bludgeoning his wife to death just hours after he had come off duty guarding Buckingham Palace.

THE hunting lobby was defeated in its attempt to overturn the National Trust's ban on stag hunting at an acrimonious annual meeting in Cardiff.

THE health service will have to pay record medical damages of more than £4 million to the family of a New York banker. A High Court ruling found the defendant guilty of negligence in failing to properly treat Joshua Yedid after a heart attack. He was left in persistent vegetative state for five years until his death in 1991.

SEVEREN men were arrested under anti-terrorist legislation in the Irish Republic as they left the annual meeting of Republican Sinn Féin, the party associated with Continuity IRA.

A POLICE sergeant, Andrew White, and a constable, Kenneth Boorman, who ordered dog handlers to hang their animals by their leashes, then kick and punch them, were given four-month jail sentences.

A MENTORING scheme borrowed from the United States, which encourages adults to act as mentors or role models for young offenders, has been given an extra £85 million.

MICHAEL Jackson, the pop star, settled his High Court action "amicably" over articles published in the Daily Mirror alleging his face was hideously disfigured and scarred as a result of cosmetic surgery.

THE campaign for mobile phones to carry health warnings took a step forward when a scientist, Roger Coghill, began Britain's first private prosecution, claiming long-term use could cause cancer and other diseases.

John Ezard is the author of the article on page 12

Labour launches marriage crusade

Alan Travis

ONE parents and gay groups last week delivered an angry warning to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, not to allow his new "marriage is best" moral crusade to stray into labelling other types of families as second best.

Their protests were sparked after Mr Straw underlined his own moral outlook by expressing his personal opposition to gay adoptions and lesbian IVF mothers, saying he "didn't want to see children being treated as trophies".

The argument exposed the political risks of publishing the most pro-marriage statement from a government for many years, despite Mr Straw's insistence that he was not preaching to people about how to live their lives.

"Let me make it crystal clear that this document is not about lecturing people about how they should live their lives or nagging them about how to bring up children," he said.

"I've been divorced myself. I was raised by a single parent with mother bringing up the five of us. So I'm not hectoring single parents who on the whole do an extremely good job in very difficult circumstances. However, the evidence is that children are best brought up where you have two natural parents, and it is more likely to be a stable family if they are married."

The development of the Government's first family policy Green Paper has been personally driven by Tony Blair and Mr Straw, despite the history of failed "back to basics" moral initiatives under the previous government.

The paper itself contains a barrage of initiatives to support marriage and family life, including a

National Family and Parenting Institute, making pre-nuptial agreements legally binding, encouraging grandparents to play a much bigger role in supporting families, and reinventing the role of civic registrar to include marriage preparation and even baby-naming ceremonies.

Among the detailed proposals are new measures such as ending "quicker 24-hour weddings" by insisting couples give 15 days' notice, and a national award scheme for "family-friendly" companies.

But missing from the package were the details of new national strategies to tackle domestic violence and teenage pregnancies, which were promised by Mr Blair in his Labour party conference speech last month. Both have been delayed as Whitehall thrashes out the detail of the policy.

Gingerbread, the campaign group for single parent families, warned the Home Secretary it was impossible to promote marriage as the ideal without risking the stigmatisation of alternative families.

Liz Sewell, Gingerbread's chief executive, said: "We're not condemning the paper. A lot of it is very good but they shouldn't be focusing on marriage. Some 24 per cent of families are headed by a lone parent. It doesn't match the reality of people's experiences and it risks alienating people."

But the Conservative deputy leader, Peter Lilley, said the Government's plans would only lead to more state intrusion in family life.

"Jack Straw plans to nationalise baptism, turn overworked health visitors into secular vicars and introduce an unprecedented intrusion into family life," he said.



Proposals for placing 'families at the heart of our society'

Support for parents
A National Family and Parenting Institute is to be set up to provide advice and develop better parenting support programmes. It will be backed by a national freephone parenting helpline.

Health visitors
Enhanced roles for health visitors to cover support for families as a whole and offer visits through school years. A £540 million Sure Start programme to co-ordinate help for families most in need. Improved parenting education in schools.

Mentors and grandparents
Mentors for young people whose parents are not able to provide a stable environment. Social services should place more children in care with grandparents. Housing authorities to give weight to the needs of grandparents so families can live nearby.

Strengthening marriage
"Pre-nuptial" written agreements about money and property are to be made legally binding on those who wish to make them. Improved guidance to help people prepare for marriage. Proposals for modernising registrars' roles include requiring both partners to attend the register office to give at least 15 days' notice of marriage.

Balancing family and work
Companies will be encouraged to provide flexible family-friendly working arrangements and maternity leave will be extended from 14 to 18 weeks.

Better financial support
Reform of tax and benefit system to help families, including increased child benefit, working families tax credit and the New Deal for lone parents.

three months before divorce or separation to help victims of domestic violence and make couples face up to the consequences of divorce. Measures to reduce conflict in divorce proceedings will make clear how property is to be divided.

Companies will be encouraged to provide flexible family-friendly working arrangements and maternity leave will be extended from 14 to 18 weeks.

Reform of tax and benefit system to help families, including increased child benefit, working families tax credit and the New Deal for lone parents.

GUARDIAN WEEKLY
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Tobacco companies labelled 'world's best drug pushers'

Sarah Bosley

BRITISH tobacco companies are among the world's "most efficient drug pushers", using aggressive marketing tactics in developing countries, the British Medical Association claimed last week.

The promise of glamour and gifts offered by a number of companies attract young people in a way that would be illegal in the United Kingdom, the BMA maintained.

In Malaysia, where direct advertising is banned, Dunhill cigarettes sponsors all league football and the screening of English Premier football matches.

In Sri Lanka, Benson and Hedges sponsors discos and dance competitions, and gives away branded personal stereos and watches.

At a combined conference, the BMA, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) and the World Development Movement called on the British government to press for an international tobacco control treaty.

Sir Alexander Macara, of the BMA, said deaths from smoking-related diseases would rise from 1 million a year to 7 million by 2030. He said tobacco companies were "the world's most efficient drug pushers".

Mary Assunta, from the Consumers' Association of Penang, Malaysia, said that in her country 60 per cent of men now smoke. In Vietnam the figure is 73 per cent and in Cambodia 65 per cent. "Men are the sole bread-winners, and if he is smoking two or three packets a day he is siphoning off money needed for other important things."

She called on the British government to help, and said: "We are pleased to see Mr Blair's government is taking measures to protect the health and well-being of the British, but please put us on the agenda."

"British companies are pushing their products in Asia. Through it comes disease and death. British companies should not be able to do in Asia what they can't do here."

Clive Bates, director of Ash, said British shareholders were profiting from the aggressive marketing of tobacco companies in developing countries now that smoking was declining in industrialised countries, which have controls on advertising and cigarette sales.

He said: "Unless your pension fund is ethically screened, it will probably have shares in British American Tobacco or another tobacco company."

Gro Harlem Brundtland, the new director of the World Health Organ-

isation, has made tobacco as high a priority as malaria control and is working for ratification of an international treaty by 2003. But only a handful of countries, including France, Canada and Finland, have so far committed themselves.

Emma Must, of the World Development Movement, said the Government's White Paper on tobacco, due before the end of the year, was a unique opportunity for Mr Blair to champion the issue.

Holding up a football shirt, suitable for an eight-year-old, emblazoned with the Dunhill and World Cup logos, she said that such promotions gave the lie to claims that the industry did not target children.

The minister for public health, Tessa Jowell, said that Britain would co-operate fully in planning any international convention to help member states strengthen their own tobacco controls.

The Tobacco Manufacturers Association denied that companies targeted children. John Carlisle, its director of public affairs, said: "Wild accusations from the World Development Movement that advertising by British manufacturers is directed at children are false. Our member companies adhere to the legislative and regulatory controls in each country where they trade."

Army on standby to counter millennium bug chaos

Michael White

SENIOR ministers are privately admitting that the millennium bug could cause such chaos in electricity supply and telecommunications on New Year's Day 2000 that troops might be needed to maintain emergency services.

A leaked exchange between the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, and the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, last week showed Mr Dewar fighting a rear-guard action to protect Territorial Army (TA) units from disbandment — because they might be needed to support stricken communities.

But what startled MPs and led to questions in the Commons from the Scottish National Party leader, Alex Salmond, was an admission at the end of Mr Dewar's letter — dated August 31 — in which he warned that loss of TA units might leave the Government "open to criticism over a reduction of emergency preparedness at a time when millennium bug problems pose a potential threat to key services such as electricity and telecommunications".

Ministers fear the bug could cause chaos throughout public services, from traffic lights to hospitals to emergency service switchboards. The letter is the first admission that members of the armed forces may need to be drafted in to cope with major civil incidents caused by the bug.

But Downing Street, the Cabinet Office and the two ministries last week all played down the threat of disrupted services when timing mechanisms inside older computer software have to grapple with the "00" problem created by the arrival of the new millennium. The army is only involved in efforts to prevent millennium bug damage to its own efficiency, officials said.

An Action 2000 team has set up a national infrastructure forum to look at the problems of the utilities. Tony Blair has also called for 20,000 "bug-busters" to be set to work correcting defective equipment, though staff have proved hard to obtain.

Experts are divided on the scale of the looming problem, although international transport systems can have no guarantees that they will survive the dangers.

Margaret Beckett, who inherited the millennium bug portfolio with her new job as Leader of the Commons in July, admitted at Labour's conference that the problem could not be fully resolved. Efforts would have to be focused on priorities and contingency planning by local authorities, she said. Everything from traffic lights to hospital computers could fail.

New inquiry opens into racist killing

Amelia Gentleman

A NEW investigation is to be launched into the suspected racist murder of a black musician who was found burning in a London street, police announced last week.

The announcement came as the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, took the unusual step of meeting the dead man's family to listen to their concerns about the way police handled the investigation into his death.

Michael Menson, aged 30, died of multiple organ failure caused by his burns, 16 days after the attack in Edmonton, north London, in February last year. Despite his repeated claims that he had been attacked, police assumed that he had set fire

to himself in a suicide attempt, and failed to investigate.

Scotland Yard later admitted in a letter to the Menson family that senior officers had made serious mistakes, and earlier this year an inquest jury found that he had been unlawfully killed. The family believe that police racism was behind the failure of the initial investigation.

A team from the Race and Violent Crime Unit at the Metropolitan police — set up in response to controversy over police handling of the murder of a black teenager, Stephen Lawrence — will undertake the re-investigation into Mr Menson's death.

However, the Home Secretary told the family, who had been pressing for a public inquiry along the

lines of the Lawrence inquiry, that he was unable to intervene directly in an individual case and could only establish a public inquiry if the competence of an entire police force had been called into question.

Instead, Mr Straw expressed concern about the situation, agreed to meet the family again if and when it was deemed necessary, and promised to pass on their concerns to the Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Paul Condon.

Five of Mr Menson's 10 brothers and sisters were present at the meeting. They told Mr Straw of their frustration that three of the four officers involved in the original inquiry had retired, and thus were immune from disciplinary action.

Extradition of Pinochet 'may put Chile's stability at risk'

Jamie Wilson

THE extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to Spain could threaten the internal stability of Chile as well as Britain's diplomatic relations with the South American state, five Law Lords heard on Monday.

On the third day of the appeal against the High Court decision to declare the former Chilean dictator's arrest unlawful, Lord Montague QC, for Pinochet, said the key issue in the case was whether "this court should interfere with the delicate balance between the interests of justice and state stability".

She said the Law Lords were in effect being asked to walk a thin line between condemning torture and other crimes and expressing a view of the "delicate nature" with which Chile had achieved national reconciliation.

She argued that when a country such as Chile replaced an authoritarian regime with a democratic system, there was inevitably tension between the need to call to account human rights abusers and a need for reconciliation. Chile had come to terms with its past since the return of democratic rule in 1980, by declaring an amnesty and appointing Pinochet as senator for life, which

made him immune from prosecution.

In any case she argued, the judicial authorities in Chile were examining allegations of crimes carried out under his regime. "It will be for the courts to decide whether he is to be accorded immunity under the basis of being senator for life."

If the House of Lords upholds the appeal the final decision over whether the 82-year-old general can be extradited will rest with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

Ms Montgomery said that the concept of head of state immunity was applicable in this case. This meant that although the crimes Pinochet is accused of could be considered "repugnant", he could not be prosecuted. There was no suggestion in the charges levelled against him by the Spanish magistrate, Baltasar Garçon, that any of his actions were motivated by "sadism", she said.

But Juan Pablo Letelier, son of Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean defence minister who was allegedly assassinated on Pinochet's orders in Washington in 1976, told a press conference that there was "no arrangement, no agreement, no settlement" based on Pinochet enjoying immunity in Chile.

The hearing continued.

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Blair's £1bn plan to develop IT in schools

John Carvel

A £1 BILLION package to develop learning through computers in schools was announced by Tony Blair last week during a visit to Trimdon village primary school in his County Durham constituency.

He said the investment over the next four years should ensure all children emerge from school with the necessary skills in the new information technologies. There should be no division between

pupils whose families could afford to buy home computers and a new generation of "information poor".

The programme was "one of the largest committed by any government in the world". It would include resources to connect every school to a National Grid for Learning.

The Government intends to kitemark educational web sites providing material that ministers think is suitable for learning in schools. This will form the core of information available on the grid, backed up

by Whitehall-approved material to help teachers prepare their lessons and develop their techniques.

The Government is to set aside £380 million to strengthen safeguards for children and young people living away from home, following a series of child abuse scandals in homes, foster care and boarding schools. Measures will include wider access to police checks on people working with youngsters, and a training programme for foster carers and staff of children's homes.

Cooling a hot planet

ONE year on from the Kyoto summit, the international community meets again this week to tackle global warming. This should be the third most important conference on climate change the world has seen. First came Rio's Earth Summit in 1992, which created the Convention on Climate Change and challenged the world to create an all inclusive approach. Then came Kyoto, the first legally binding agreement under which the developed world agreed to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions. Now comes Buenos Aires, where nitty-gritty rules and mechanisms by which emissions are to be reduced are to be thrashed out. Surely we should all be celebrating this international commitment to save the planet? It would be comforting but far too complacent.

Each step has been dogged by discouraging fudges, missed deadlines and disappointing targets. George Bush agreed to United States participation in Rio only if firm targets were abandoned. It is already clear that the summit's goal — to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2000 — will be met only by Britain and Germany. Then came the cynical Kyoto deal: developing states were not required to sign up to voluntary reductions in exchange for the US, which produces 25 per cent of the world's emissions, being able to engage in "emissions trading" — buying credits from states which reduce emissions below international target levels. Far from promoting self-restraint, Kyoto encouraged self-indulgence.

One danger facing the conference is getting bogged down in detail. Kyoto called for a 5 per cent reduction in 1990 emission levels by 2010. There are still serious doubts whether this will be achieved, yet as early as 1990 the world's top scientists were calling for a 50 per cent reduction by 2050. Warnings have come thick and fast since then of the devastating effects current levels are causing. Even more serious have been events. The devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America is only the latest in a series of weather changes wreaking havoc round the globe. A second challenge facing Buenos Aires is to pay more heed to the need to help states adapt to existing climate changes. British ministers were reminded last month by their advisers of the need to spend more money now on developing drought-resistant crops and plants that grow in saline soils. Dreadful though Hurricane Mitch's devastation has been, the threat from future disasters is of a much grimmer dimension: whole populations displaced as deltas — such as the Nile, Mekong and Ganges — are submerged. Who will house, clothe and feed the displaced? Never have scientific warnings been more serious.

Netanyahu dives for cover (again)

THE SUICIDE car bomb in a Jerusalem market last week and the Israeli Cabinet's reaction to it show in dramatic but tragic light that the militant Islamic group Hamas and Benjamin Netanyahu have much in common. Hamas has never made a secret of its opposition to the peace deal which the Americans brokered at the Wye River plantation last month. It rejected it before, during, and after the negotiations, arguing that the deal was wrong in principle and in substance. It gave Yasser Arafat and his colleagues in the government of the Palestinian Authority little more than a fig leaf to cover the nakedness of their strategy. It was, they said, a self-defeating humiliation. When, a few days after returning from the United States, as a sign of good faith with his negotiating partners Mr Arafat put Hamas's spiritual leader under house arrest it was almost inevitable that one of the movement's followers would take action. So the latest Jerusalem bomb comes as no surprise.

The Israeli government's reaction is more illuminating. By seizing on the bomb attack to suspend the peace process and threaten to take another provocative step towards building the controversial Har Homa housing project in Arab East Jerusalem, Mr Netanyahu removes any doubt that he was serious about looking for a peace deal. He went to Wye as a man who, in opposition, had denounced the Oslo agreement of 1993 as a lie. Once in power and faced with the responsibility of

putting his promises into action, he never flinched from his hardline view. The Americans cajoled and pleaded with him to take the negotiating track, and he always did so with undisguised reluctance.

Now, it is clear, he was negotiating at Wye either with deliberate bad faith or on the assumption that a pretext would be found to back out of any agreement he made. He knew that no peace deal would eliminate the suicide bombers and reconcile them to co-existence. Israel already has some of the world's most draconian security arrangements and long-standing practices of retribution. But they have not worked because they cannot. Mr Netanyahu was well aware of that, just as he knew that Mr Arafat could not act as Israel's surrogate security agent. Even if Mr Arafat wanted to declare the "all-out war on the terrorists" he and his police could not succeed in preventing suicide bombings.

The Israeli prime minister's behaviour in the wake of this attack is in stark contrast to the way the various parties reacted to the grisly bombing at Omagh in the wake of the signing of the Good Friday peace deal in Northern Ireland. It took more lives than any single atrocity in the 30 years of the Troubles. Yet on all sides, from the British government to the Ulster Unionists to Sinn Féin, the reaction was the same. They denounced the bombers and insisted that their actions would not derail the peace deal.

In Israel, regrettably, the constituency for peace has never been as strong as in Northern Ireland. Even before Mr Netanyahu the governing parties were ultra-cautious about ceding land or accepting Palestinian rights. But under Yitzhak Rabin the Labour party had started a new approach. Mr Netanyahu never agreed with it, and he is determined not to change soon. Caught between the rage of the Palestinians and the intransigence of its own short-sighted government, Israel's insecurity is doomed to go on.

Inequalities amid equal rights

UNDER a government which bolted on a women's minister as an after-thought, women in Britain are doing all right. The new women's minister, Baroness Jay, has every reason to be proud of her government's record: the new childcare strategy, the push to a "family-friendly" work package, social security reforms that include a big increase in child benefit, and the sharing of pensions on divorce. Like most other European states, Britain has seen women making major advances in the professions — equal numbers entering law and medicine and even more females taking business studies than men. Where only a generation ago in Britain there were seven male undergraduates for every three female, women now outnumber men in higher education. More female graduates found jobs than male graduates at the last count. By next year there will be more women than men in the workforce, though a big proportion remain part-timers.

Yet only the ideologically blind can ignore the discrimination and lack of equal opportunities that still continue: pay rates have narrowed, but are still at an unacceptable 20 per cent below the male rate; and women are still massively under-represented in certain professions, including law, medicine, science, technology, engineering and government.

There are other problems too, as Baroness Jay has pointed out: Britain's record of unwanted teenage pregnancies; one in four women suffering from domestic violence; rigid labour laws which deter many women workers, such as nurses or teachers, from returning to their old careers. At the moment, there are 140,000 registered nurses who are staying at home, reflecting the fact that the health service has been one of the slowest employers to recognise the importance of introducing family-friendly working practices.

Further reforms are in the pipeline, and these should complement earlier ministerial initiatives, such as the move by education ministers to examine the widening gap between girls and boys at GCSE level. If the current laddish culture is successfully challenged — and the anti-learning boy culture corrected — there ought to be less domestic violence. Meanwhile a positive ministerial response is needed to the Equal Opportunity Commission's call for a comprehensive and modernised sex discrimination law incorporating the various earlier acts. Many problems, such as sexual harassment, are not even currently covered.

Arafat sells his people down the Wye river

Edward Said

THE unravelling of the Wye River Agreement between Israel, the United States and the Palestinian Authority has already begun. After a car bomb in Jerusalem, the Israeli government refused to ratify the interim peace deal until the Authority clamped down on anti-Israel militants. New obstacles are bound to develop on a daily basis.

In its reporting of the agreement, the US press did not bother to point out that the 40 per cent supposedly being given to Arafat's corrupt authority was broken down into bits and pieces, all of it subject to Israel's choice of date and location of the land to be partially vacated. Since the signing there have been at least two postponements, and no bypassing roads are to be given up on the contrary, Israel has asked the US for an additional \$1.3 billion for redeployments.

The West Bank is still divided into three areas. Area A is entirely Palestinian-run except for security, water, and exits and entrances; Area B is jointly patrolled by Palestinian and Israeli soldiers, with security, water, building permits, exits and entrances entirely controlled by Israel; Area C is completely Israeli. Before Wye, these amounted respectively to 2.8 per cent, 24 per cent and 72 per cent of the land area.

Wye gave the Palestinians an additional 1 per cent from Area C, and 14.2 per cent from Area B, thus putting about 18 per cent under Palestinian control again, with the same exclusions and provisions.

In addition, Israel will transfer about 13 per cent more from Area C to Area B, where — to repeat — Israel really controls things, including of course the 3 per cent designated as a nature preserve (whatever that is supposed to mean). In effect then, the Palestinians got — if that is the right word — a total of 18.2 per cent of the West Bank added to Area A, the rest to Area B. In no case did the Palestinians acquire sovereignty, control over exits and entrances, water, and overall security.

The Palestinian areas are, for the most part, non-contiguous and allow no free passage between them. Jerusalem remains off limits to residents of Gaza and the West Bank.

Most of the rest of the Wye River Memorandum is taken up with security arrangements which in effect commit the Authority to Israel's security, but not the other way round. In addition, the CIA is to play an active role in adjudicating security issues such as extradition, combating the "terrorist" infrastructure, incitement and the like. Israel in the meantime can do what it likes, including the building of more settlements, taking more land, adding to Jerusalem's area, and helping itself to all the West Bank water it wants.

The fate of Palestinian human rights looks grim indeed, subject to dictatorial control by an already despotic Arafat backed up by the CIA and Israel. But the real problem with all the land transfer arrangements is not only that it gives Israel a unilateral say over which land is to be transferred: it also allows Israel a generous number of "phases" by which the transfer is to be com-

pleted, without any mechanism to enforce delays or delinquencies.

Given its record since the Oslo Agreements were first signed, no one ought to be sanguine that redeployments of the Israeli army will take place according to schedule.

As for the changes in the National Covenant that Israel has demanded, that will require a hasty convening of the group which Bill Clinton, in reasons that do him no credit, has chosen to address. The Palestinian airport and the Gaza seaport were left suitably vague. All in all then, a dishearteningly mean-spirited, rigging document without too much chance of real enforcement and so, in chance at all to change the relationship between the two sides. The Israelis will continue to be the masters, Palestinians — pardon the expression — the abject niggers.

What now? A number of things propose themselves. In the first place, the Palestinian leadership should be roundly censured by many people as possible for so disgracefully supine a negotiating performance.

Second, the notion that literally hundreds of Palestinian prisoners are being left to rot in Israeli jails (Netanyahu gave up 750 of the 2,000-5,000 reportedly still held) is scandalous for which Arafat should be held responsible. Third, the defence of later deployments, later consideration of safe passage for Palestinian later permits for industrial parks and the like is also scandalous.

IN SUM, Arafat and his people have done the usual thing: given up without very much of a struggle and certainly without the slightest trace of a strategic or moral vision. In effect Palestinians are now tied into security arrangements for Israel that continue to devalue and debase Palestinian life.

Refugees will remain refugees, and Palestinians will continue to have Israeli soldiers as their keepers. The devil only knows what the horrendous settlers are about to be loose on the exposed citizens of the West Bank and Gaza. Certainly Arafat will do nothing for them except urge them to wait for "our state, in the meantime robbing them blind, letting corruption continue, buying off potential opponents, jailing, torturing and killing anyone who stands up to him.

An imperative now is to urge Palestinians to try to deter people from attending and participating in that council meeting which is supposed to change, cancel or fiddle with the charter. The idea that people should be rounded up just to do Israel's bidding, with not a whit of change in the highly discriminatory laws against Palestinians, strikes me as totally preposterous.

The only real course for Palestinians today is to urge their representatives on the legislative council to vote with their feet, and to begin once again to play for a new council, one whose members are neither appointed by, nor beholden to, Arafat.

The time grows less and less before we will have allowed the ruinously incompetent and corrupt leadership to sell us out totally, and the sooner we start to organise a major Palestinian meeting to take place outside the Arab world, the better. The midnight hour has already struck.

GUARDIAN WEEKLY
November 15 1998

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Chemical weapons: New routes to old poisons

Preventing the proliferation of chemical weapons is proving more difficult than expected. The Hague Convention did not stop the murderous gas warfare at Passchendaele (above), and the political and scientific obstacles are legion, as **Owen Bowcott** reports

THE revelation that Saddam Hussein hides his clandestine chemical weapons programme from even his most senior advisers will have sent a shudder through the international community. Baghdad's latest defiance of UN arms inspectors, the United Nations mission charged with destroying Iraq's secret stockpiles of Sarin and VX nerve agents, has been carefully timed. The West's resolve to bomb Saddam into compliance, as he well knows, is temporarily weakened.

The news from Abbas al-Jabari, one of the most senior defectors of recent years to escape with his life from the heart of Saddam's regime, is a reminder of just how difficult it is to control chemical weapons technology. Interviewed in the Guardian last week, Jabari claimed that even Iraq's prime minister, Tariq Aziz, did not know that Iraq still retained nerve agents.

Trying to put the murderous genie back into the bottle once scientists had devised such a lethal arsenal was never a realistic prospect. Preventing proliferation of the "poor man's nuclear bomb", despite the advent of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is proving a harder task than many imagined.

Obtaining the incontrovertible evidence necessary to prove that chemical weapons are being made or stored is often an elusive quest. Three months after the Pentagon launched a cruise missile attack on Sudan's Al Shifa pharmaceutical factory, for example, its justification is coming under renewed attack. It would not be the first time that politicians in the United States have leapt to conclusions on the basis of microscopic residues.

In 1981 the US State Department claimed that Soviet aircraft were supplying toxins to communist guerrillas in Laos and Kampuchea. Several years later it emerged that so-called yellow rain was neither a biological nor chemical warfare agent but simply mass droppings of the giant honeybee, *Apis dorsata*.

The aftermath of the Sudan attack illustrates the problems of basing pivotal foreign policy decisions on the complexities of chemical analysis. In background briefings, a US Department of Defence official declared: "We know with high confidence that Shifa produces a chemical precursor that is unique to the production of VX." The deadly nerve agent, discovered in the 1950s, was allegedly being supplied to Iraq's chemical weapons programme.

A few days later the assertions were more qualified. The US under-secretary of state for political affairs, Thomas Pickering, revealed that the soil samples, allegedly obtained by a secret agent who penetrated the Al Shifa plant in the months before the bombing, "shows the presence of a chemical whose simple name is EMPTA". It was "an indicator of a potential to produce VX gas".

The dispute over the uses of EMPTA, or more precisely O-Ethyl-Methyl-Phosphono-Thioic Acid, illustrates just how hard it is to obtain scientific, let alone political, agreement when seeking to control the chemical weapons trade. EMPTA can indeed be a precursor, or chemical constituent, of VX gas. But even the experts disagree on its legal status. Britain's Chemical Industries Association, for instance, suggests that EMPTA falls under schedule 1A/3 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), "because it has little or no civil use".

But the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) — the Hague-based international body responsible for enforcing the CWC since 1997 — believes EMPTA is covered in schedule 2B/4 of the convention. "There are approximately 10,000 compounds of this kind," observed the OPCW's spokesman, Donato Klingner-Passaghi. "On the basis of our studies... these chemicals could be used as herbicides or insecticides."

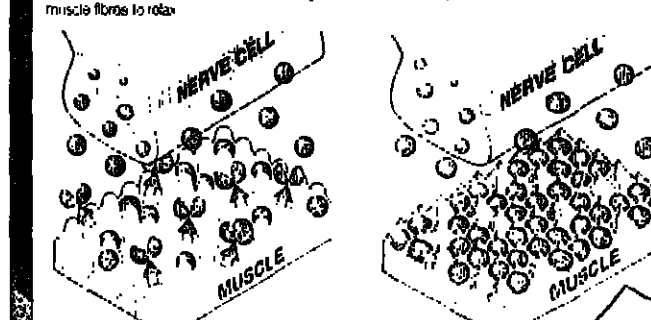
A further complicating factor is that new routes are always being devised to old poisons. To cope with the multiple permutations of chemicals, and the relative ease with which precursors can be combined into variations of lethal toxins, the convention lists families of multi-hyphenated compounds whose sale and export are controlled.

There they all are listed under their common or battlefield names: Sarin (first developed by the Nazis), its derivative Tabun, Soman, VX, lewisites, Nitrogen and Sulphur Mustard gases, and Ricin. Contact with most of them would reduce the human nervous system to instant spasms, inducing suffocation. But alongside them are compounds such as Methylphosphonyl dichloride or Ethyldithioalanine. It is these precursors, or chemical building blocks, that trigger so many arguments over whether they have legitimate, peaceful uses.

The developments of the past few months have heightened fears about chemical weapon proliferation among the OPCW's 200-strong

Nerve gas how it works

Normal reaction
1 Nerve cell secretes acetylcholine which binds with muscle cell receptors, contracting muscle fibres.
2 Acetylcholinesterase (enzyme) released by nerve cell, breaks down the acetylcholine, ending muscle fibres to relax.

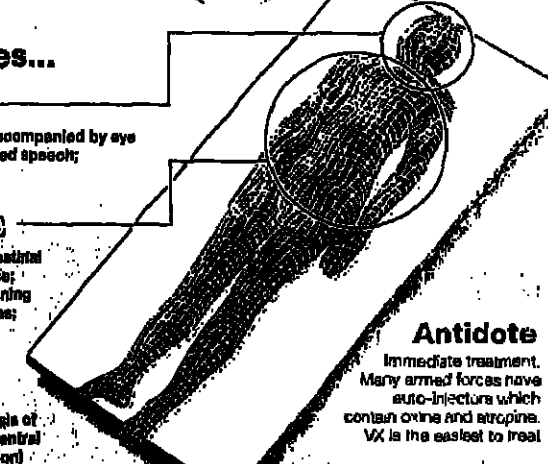


And what it does...

LOW DOSE
Pinning nose; impaired vision accompanied by eye pain; headache; dizziness; slurred speech; hallucinations; nausea.

MEDIUM DOSE
Respiratory problems; gastrointestinal upset and vomiting; incoordination; powerful discharge of saliva; running eyes; local tremors or convulsions; sweating.

HIGH DOSE
Convulsions and loss of consciousness; respiratory paralysis; damage to central nervous system; death (asphyxiation).



Antidote

Immediate treatment. Many armed forces have auto-injectors which contain oxime and atropine. VX is the easiest to treat.

Declassification timetable

The multilateral Chemical Weapons Convention came into force April 25, 1997. Of the 164 nations who have now signed (including the UK), 120 have ratified it. Only 13 nations have not signed.

Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Destroying category 1 and 2 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 3 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 4 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 5 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 6 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 7 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 8 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 9 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Destroying category 10 weapons	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Deadly catalogue

Category 1
• Nerve agents
Organophosphorus chemicals. The first nerve agent was discovered in 1936 during a search for better pesticides. The main agents are:
Tabun: easiest nerve agent to manufacture.
Sarin: very volatile, mostly inhaled.
Bombs: moderately volatile; inhaled or contact with skin.
VX: can remain on material, equipment and terrain for a long time.

• Mustard agents and lewisites.
Mustard gas: used extensively during the First World War. Iraq used large quantities during the Iran-Iraq war. Iraq used 100,000 litres of mustard gas against the Kurds in 1988.
Lewisite: a chemical warfare agent.

• Toxicity
Ricin: poison from castor beans. Acts by blocking the body's synthesis of proteins.
Sarin: organophosphorus chemical. Inhibits the enzyme acetylcholinesterase, which breaks down the nerve agent. Acts on nervous system. 1mg will eventually kill.

Category 2
Three toxic chemicals. Numerous precursors to nerve agents, mustard gas, lewisites and VX.
Amiton: organophosphorus insecticide considered too toxic for agricultural use.
PFIB: gas byproduct of Telcel. Inhalation of large doses is fatal.
BZ: biochemical riot. Weaponised as an incapacitating agent.

Category 3
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 4
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 5
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 6
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 7
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 8
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 9
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 10
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 11
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 12
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 13
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 14
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 15
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 16
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Category 17
Four toxic chemicals. Seven nerve agent precursors. Six mustard agent precursors. Cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazi gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds.
Chlorophosphorus: Gran disinfectant and soil sterilant which is a severe irritant and lachrymator (induces eye flow).

Handwritten note: "The 1998 CWC is a landmark in the history of chemical weapons." (written vertically)

US threatens escalation of banana trade war

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE United States was preparing this week to launch the biggest trade war against Europe for more than a decade in an escalation of the long-running dispute over banana imports.

The move, which European Union officials believe is fuelled by political contributions to the Democratic party by Chiquita, the US banana-exporting multinational, looks set to affect British and French food products in particular, including wine, cheese and whisky.

A list of products to be targeted for sanctions was expected to be issued in Washington on Tuesday.

The threat comes just weeks after the current harvest in Honduras and parts of the Caribbean was wiped out by Hurricane Mitch — a

calamity which is likely to increase European dependence on Chiquita's imports from unaffected parts of Central America.

American officials are believed to be targeting British and French products because of their defence of their former colonies' banana exports, with Germany and Scandinavia being informally told their trade with the US is unlikely to be affected.

The dispute over banana imports is long-running and European retaliation is already being discussed.

The row, which the Europeans see as a dispute over their attempt to protect small-scale Caribbean farmers from being wiped out by a predatory US multinational, is the latest in a series of trade spat between the EU and the US.

Both sides have traded insults in

recent days over whether each other is doing enough to defuse Asian economic crisis, with Vice-President Al Gore accusing Europe of not being open enough to imports from the Far East, and the EU responding with figures showing that its markets have been much more accommodating this year than American ones.

In an unusually heated response to the prospect of US sanctions, a spokesman for the EU's trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, described the threats as misguided and inept.

Sir Leon's spokesman, Nigel Gardner, said: "If the US goes down the road of imposing unilateral sanctions, it will have extremely damaging consequences. We will not co-operate with a gun illegally aimed at our heads."

The move emerged at last week-end's conference of US and EU business leaders at Charlotte, North Carolina, attended by Charles Barshefsky, the American trade representative, Sir Leon and Martin Bangemann, the EU industry commissioner.

At the heart of the banana dispute is US dissatisfaction with EU import policy, which the Americans claim discriminates against Latin American importers represented by Chiquita, even though the company has already cornered nearly 75 per cent of the European market.

Although the US itself is not a banana exporter to Europe, the administration lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organisation last year within 24 hours of a decision by Chiquita's chairman Carl H. Lindner Jr, previously a staunch supporter of the Republicans, to donate \$500,000 to Democratic party funds.

In Brief

THE BANK of England threw a lifeline to hard-pressed homeowners and businesses when it reacted to Britain's rapid descent towards recession with the sharpest cut in interest rates for five years — down a half-point to 6.75 per cent.

BRITISH Airways has suffered a 10 per cent slump in half-yearly profits, to \$840 million. The management is now faced with pruning its global network and abandoning plans for bigger, luxurious jets.

SIR RICHARD Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer, declared recession on the high street after announcing the retailer's first drop in profits since 1991. He blamed a sudden consumer slump for the shock 23 per cent fall in half-year profits, to \$580 million.

BRITISH Petroleum gave a boost to the north of England and Scotland with plans to invest \$830 million in new chemical plants. BP plans to build new ethylene and ethanol facilities at the company's existing sites in Grangemouth and Hull.

THE Confederation of British Industry put pressure on the UK government to set a date for British entry into the single currency. Sir Clive Thompson, president of the CBI, warned ministers that companies would refuse to invest huge amounts of capital in preparation for the shift to the euro unless they were given a date for joining.

BARCLAY Capital, the investment arm of the banking giant, sacked nearly 5 per cent of its workforce following a strategic review into the losses it incurred in Russia two months ago.

KEVIN MAXWELL, son of the disgraced media tycoon Robert Maxwell, was told by a High Court judge that he had until the end of the month to make a written statement to the UK Department of Trade and Industry about the Mirror Group empire which collapsed after his father's death in 1991.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

	Starting rate November 9	Starting rate November 9
Australia	2.8206-2.8238	2.8070-2.8104
Austria	19.89-19.71	19.36-19.37
Belgium	57.72-57.81	58.74-58.84
Canada	2.5441-2.5489	2.5658-2.5694
Denmark	10.83-10.85	10.48-10.47
France	9.38-9.39	9.32-9.33
Germany	2.7692-2.8014	2.7510-2.7540
Hong Kong	12.84-12.84	1.1041-1.1041
Ireland	1.1242-1.1264	1.1232-1.1232
Italy	2.769-2.771	1.01-1.01
Japan	201.16-201.41	3.1030-3.1035
Netherlands	3.1599-3.1581	3.1777-3.1742
New Zealand	3.0913-3.0980	12.20-12.21
Norway	12.98-12.98	282.05-282.16
Portugal	286.82-287.49	233.81-234.11
Spain	237.83-238.01	12.93-12.93
Sweden	13.10-13.12	2.2487-2.2497
Switzerland	2.3128-2.3164	1.8674-1.8683
USA	1.8691-1.8698	1.4013-1.4013
ECU	1.4233-1.4260	

FTSE 100 share index down 51.5 to 5455.5 at 10.00 AM
Index up 47.1 at 4.00 PM. Gold down 22.30 to \$297.50

Brown forecasts growth for Britain

Larry Elliott and Michael White

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, last week rejected warnings that Britain is being drawn into a deepening world recession when he unveiled an upbeat Treasury forecast which predicts that the economy will bounce back from the current downturn within two years.

In his annual Pre-Budget Report, Mr Brown laid this upbeat assessment of growth prospects next year with a £250 million (\$412 million) package to prevent a winter crisis in the National Health Service. He also unveiled a series of measures aimed at closing the UK's efficiency gap with the rest of the world.

"The background to this report is the global downturn, which started in Asia and which has reverberated throughout every continent," Mr Brown said. "It has not only shifted the balance of risks in the world economy from fears about inflation to fears about growth, but has forced every country, every continent, every financial institution to cut their estimates for growth."

With the Treasury expecting the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to cut interest rates over the coming months, the Chancellor said he was cutting his growth forecast for 1999, from the 1.75-2.25 per cent expected at the time of the March Budget to 1.5 per cent — higher than most independent forecasters are predicting.

Mr Brown said Britain was in better shape to withstand the impact of the global downturn than in the early 1990s, adding that the strength of the public finances meant there was no need to scale down his £40 billion boost to health and education spending over the next three years. The Treasury's forecasts for spending and borrowing are being based on the more pessimistic of the two forecasts for next year.

The Chancellor stressed that the real need was to improve Britain's long-term economic performance, and sketched out his equivalent of the Conservative supply-side reforms of the 1980s in a bid to boost productivity.

Looking ahead to next March's Budget, the Chancellor proposed tax breaks to encourage small businesses to invest, a shake-up of planning law to help Britain create its own silicon valleys, an investigation into the problems faced by



Gordon Brown leaving the Treasury. He gave an upbeat assessment for growth prospects. PHOTO: RON HANSON

firms in securing bank finance, incentives for research and development, and £25 million to create eight new institutes of enterprise in British universities.

The Chancellor added that the public sector would also be expected to raise its game, with new performance targets and a drive to stamp out absenteeism, which costs the state £6 billion a year.

Announcing plans to provide tax breaks for employee share ownership, Mr Brown said: "I want to remove, once and for all, the old 'them

and us' culture in industry. I want to encourage the new enterprise culture of teamwork in which everyone contributes and everyone benefits from success."

As a sign of the Government's determination to cut welfare bills and encourage work, the Chancellor extended the Working Families Tax Credit — the centrepiece of this year's Budget — to the disabled.

He told MPs that a disabled person, with one child, moving from benefits to work would have a minimum income of £220 a week, and

would pay no tax on income below £274 a week.

Green lobbyists were disappointed by Mr Brown's softly-softly approach to environmental taxation, despite a call for an energy tax on firms in a report last week by the British Airways chairman, Lord Marshall.

The upbeat tone of the report prompted the Opposition leader, William Hague, and his shadow chancellor, Francis Maude, to condemn "Peter Pan economics" based on "fantasy forecasting". The Liberal Democrats' spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, said the high level of sterling was damaging manufacturing.

Some City and business experts also accused Mr Brown of being over-optimistic. The director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, Adair Turner, said: "The growth forecasts are probably on the high side, but we believe public finances are in a robust enough state to take a significant undershoot without unacceptable levels of borrowing."

Patrick Foley, economic adviser at Lloyds TSB, said: "The City will find some of the forecasts for growth are a little on the optimistic side, but they are pretty much in line with our own thinking."

Main points

- Growth to slow to between 1 and 1.5 per cent of GDP next year, rising to 2.25-2.75 per cent in 2000/2001 and 2.75-3.25 the year after
- Inflation to remain on target of 2.5 per cent
- Public sector debt to fall below 40 per cent of GDP
- £250 million additional spending on the health service this winter
- Minimum income for working lone parents with one child of £5.50 an hour and £6.37 for working lone parents with two children as a result of the introduction of Working Family Tax Credit and the Minimum Wage
- More New Deal places; 120 technology training centres to tackle skill shortages
- Tax breaks to encourage employee share ownership, research and development, small and medium-sized companies, and energy efficiency
- Review of banks' services to new businesses
- Possible £50 cut in car tax for small, clean cars
- 'Family friendly' working practices including enhanced child care provision
- 10p income tax starting rate 'when economically right to do so'

Le Monde

Officer admits passing to the Serbs secret Nato plans for air strikes

French army too chummy with Serbs

ANALYSIS
Rémy Ourdan

COMMANDER Pierre-Henri Bune's communication to the Serbs of secret Nato plans regarding Kosovo may have been a spectacular act of espionage, but it was also in keeping with Serb sympathies among French military officers. More surprising is the fact that Bune's actions have been made public. Up to now, the government has always hushed up blatant examples of "dangerous liaisons" between French officers and Serbs.

There was a scandal last April when the United States press accused a French intelligence officer, Commander Hervé Gourmelon, of passing on strategic information to the Bosnian Serb leader, Ratko Mladic, now accused of crimes against humanity by the Hague tribunal. Gourmelon was suspected of having warned Mladic he was about to be arrested. Paris denied the report, but repatriated the commander, later admitting that he had had a "questionable" relationship with war criminals.

Some ambiguity surrounds the Gourmelon case. He had been asked by his superiors to keep in touch with Serb extremists likely to jeopardise the peace process or even attack Western forces. But after three years in the country, Gourmelon was apparently won over to the Serb cause. Although it was his duty to talk with the Serbs, and even to pass false information to them, he often tried to convince his French superiors to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards them.

The key question in both the Bune and Gourmelon cases is: were defence secrets passed on to the Serbs at the request of the French government? And if so, at what level was the decision taken? It seems that answers to those questions may soon emerge for the first time, since an investigating magistrate has been assigned to the Bune case.

France, taking its cue from the late President François Mitterrand, has always had a special relationship with the Serbs. Mitterrand was the Western politician most loathed by the Bosnians. It was he who once exclaimed: "As long as I'm alive, France will never go to war against Serbia", and who kept silent when French "blue berets" rendered helpless by an inadequate United Nations mandate, were humiliated by the Serbs.

There are several reasons for the deep-seated pro-Serb stance of certain French army officers. First there is a military tradition: historically, the French and the Serbs have always been allies. There are also racist overtones: most Bosnian troops are Muslims. Finally, French officers prefer to talk to their own kind, and most of the former officers of the Yugoslav army are Serbs.

It is true that the Bosnian high command could be dubious. But some French officers deluded themselves to the point of certifying that "at least the Serbs keep their



COMMANDER Pierre-Henri Bune, pictured above in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, has admitted that in the course of four meetings with a Serb secret agent, Jovan Milanovic, between July and October he passed on information about Nato's plan to attack Serb positions in the event of a military intervention in Kosovo. Bune confirmed that Milanovic asked him a number of strategic questions about Nato

air strikes, and admitted that he gave Milanovic a Nato document entitled "Order of Operations".

Bune says he acted alone and was not paid. He said he was motivated by an "intellectual interest in the Balkans, sympathy for the Serb nation, and humanitarian feelings". He has been charged with "secret dealings with a foreign power" and is now in jail awaiting trial. (November 5)

promises", at a time when Belgrade and Pale were flouting agreements with Western emissaries before the ink was even dry.

During the siege of Sarajevo, Franco-Serb connivance usually took the form of a quiet word or two exchanged by officers, a sign from a diplomat, or a glass of slivovitz between diplomats or soldiers.

Sometimes it erupted into the open, as when General Jean-René Bachelet, a French commander of Unprofor, backed a Serb request to alter the Dayton accord so as to avoid the reunification of Sarajevo; or when ambassador Yves Gaudel invited Colonel Milenko Indic, who was involved in the capture and torture of French soldiers two years earlier, to an official reception.

The fact that those two incidents took place after Jacques Chirac was elected president suggests that there was no fundamental shift in Franco-Serbian relations after Mitterrand's death. Yet in Sarajevo Chirac is adored as much as Mitterrand was hated. The Bosnians have not forgotten he was the first person

to order "blue helmets" to return fire when attacked in May 1995, that the rapid reaction force that bombed Serb positions was his idea, and that he was the first European leader to denounce Serb "barbarity".

But despite the change of policy at the top, army officers and diplomats continue to remain in close touch with the more radical Serbs. Bune is not the first man to have been sanctioned. A "blue helmet", Patrick Barriot, was swiftly and discreetly discharged after he became the Paris "ambassador" of the self-proclaimed "Krajina Serb Republic".

Under Mitterrand, pro-Serb feeling in the army echoed the president's policy. It now conflicts with France's official stance — though it has to be said that, unlike the British or the Germans, Chirac and prime minister Lionel Jospin have not exactly shown themselves keen to arrest war criminals, to co-operate with the Hague tribunal, or to take a firm line with the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic. (November 4)

Poland fears its EU goal is slipping away

Jan Krauze in Warsaw

ON THE surface, everything seems fine in Warsaw. Far from being sucked into the crisis that has hit most emerging countries, Poland stands out as a shining example of economic dynamism and stability.

It was certainly rocked by the Russian crisis last summer. But both the zloty and growth (5 per cent this year) have held their ground well. It would be an exaggeration to say that the future looks rosy on the eastern front. But basically the "Russian alert" has blown over.

Warsaw's fears are now being fuelled from another quarter — the West. In the "new" Europe of 15 mostly social democratic countries, keen to spur economic recovery and reduce unemployment, Poland is worried that it could be sidelined.

This is not a new concern: for at least a year, the French government has hinted that it is in no hurry to see the European Union (EU) enlarged. The bigger worry now is that the new German government seems to be saying the same thing. A few weeks after September's general election, the new German chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, told the Pörschach summit in Austria that enlargement looked "much more complicated than we had originally thought" and that it was not a good idea "to delude [EU] candidates". He, too, made no secret of the fact that his priorities lay elsewhere. That caused great disappointment in Warsaw, even though it came as no real surprise. To the Polish foreign minister, Bronislaw Geremek, it was clear that "the political will [to enlarge the EU] is now weaker."

The German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, has since been dispatched to Warsaw to explain that Germany is still in favour of enlargement, and that under its EU presidency (from January to June 1999) it intends to speed up some negotiation procedures. But Fischer was careful to qualify his remarks by saying one had to be "realistic" about the issue. Geremek replied: "Realism is a good thing, as it takes into account national interests, but we feel it needs to be combined with a dash of romanticism — EU and Nato enlargement means the unification of Europe."

Romanticism is a word that no doubt brought a smile to the lips of EU officials, particularly coming from a Pole. But it is something that Geremek, the Czech president Václav Havel and others have been harping on since the collapse of communism in 1989. Their position is that, without "generosity" and a minimum of enthusiasm that allows factors other than objective criteria to be taken into account, enlargement will either happen too late, not happen at all, or be bungled.

Appeals aside, Poland has also done its share of posturing over the issue. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who was the first prime minister of the post-communist era, said recently: "Poland is a proud country and won't be kept waiting indefinitely." The reality, of course, is that candidate countries have little choice but to wait until they are invited to join.

At the moment Brussels has mentioned 2006 or 2007 as the "earliest" possible dates — in other words, 17-18 years after Eastern Europe ditched the communist system.

It is true that things are moving; on November 10 accession negotiations on a number of "easy" sectors will begin. But on essential issues — above all, institutional reform and the common agricultural policy — no real headway has been made.

And while eventual accession is presented, both by the applicants and the EU, as a fait accompli, the future remains uncertain. How long must each aspiring member prove the excellence of its economic stewardship, ward off successive crises, and convince public opinion, election after election, that it is worth making sacrifices for Europe?

In Poland polls show that the number of people in favour of EU membership has been dwindling steadily for several years. This raises the question of how long the government will be able to maintain its fervour for reform.

So far the present centre-right coalition has remained as pro-European as its social democratic predecessor. Since coming to power a year ago, Jerzy Buzek's government has pushed through several reforms; it has extended the responsibilities of local authorities in fewer but larger regions; it has adopted a courageous and very costly programme to restructure the mining sector; and it has announced plans to reform the pension system and the health service. But the difficult work remains to be done. Agriculture must be modernised; infrastructure improved; environmental protections brought up to EU standards.

DURING the coming election-free year, the present coalition can continue to risk unpopular reforms. But the government faces an election in 2000, and it may prove increasingly difficult to stay on course, particularly as the present coalition consists of a rag-bag of neo-liberals, trade union leaders and rightwing nationalists. Last month's regional elections were edifying in this respect. They revealed the strength of the main rightwing and leftwing parties, Solidarity Electoral Action and the Democratic Left Alliance, and the relative weakness of the Freedom Union.

Although not disastrous, the setback suffered by Geremek's friends and especially supporters of Leszek Balcerowicz, the deputy prime minister responsible for finance, was clear-cut. It has not, however, prevented Balcerowicz from imposing his budget ideas and his vision of a Poland that should be giving its toils for difficult times.

But his ambitious tax reform plans have already been more or less shelved, and his authority has waned even within his own party. He and all those who believe that Poland must modernise as quickly as possible, and that the date of EU membership cannot be postponed indefinitely without serious repercussions, may pay a heavy price for the "realism" now being advocated by the EU countries. (November 5)

John Coile

Attitudes to hunger strikers start to thaw

Illegal immigrants in France have found some unlikely allies in local MPs, reports **Philippe Bernard**

FRENCH interior ministry officials have their eyes riveted on Le Havre, Bordeaux and Limell-Brévannes, in the Paris suburbs, where groups of illegal immigrants, or *sans-papiers*, have been on hunger strike for 46, 50 and 60 days respectively.

In August 1996, when the then prime minister, Alain Juppé, decided to dislodge more than 200 *sans-papiers* — along with a supportive film star, Emmanuelle Béart — from a Paris church after their 50-day hunger strike, all the media were present to record this display of firm government.

Today the context is very different: 77,000 out of 142,000 *sans-papiers* have been regularised, and this time no film stars have run to the rescue of the 65,000 who have had their applications turned down; appeals lodged by 45,000 of them are still in the pipeline, but should mostly be processed by the end of the year.

The present tensions, which have been exacerbated by the hunger strikes, have moved a number of MPs, some of them Socialists, to soften their approach. The sponsorship of individual immigrants by people in the arts and other types of support have run out of steam, and attempts to co-ordinate the deeply divided hunger strikers have collapsed. But local elected representatives in hunger strike areas have begun to voice concern and are trying to persuade the government to be more flexible.

Even Laurent Fabius, a Socialist and a former prime minister, has promised to appeal to his prefect on a behalf of a group of *sans-papiers*

who have occupied a hall in the commune where he is mayor. Another Socialist, Joseph Rossignol, who is mayor of Limell-Brévannes, has allowed 23 Africans, 11 of whom began a hunger strike in Créteil Cathedral on September 1, to stay in the council chamber.

His "irresponsible and regrettable attitude" earned him a rap on the knuckles from the executive of the Socialist Party (PS), but he is about to receive support from an unexpected quarter: an informal "monitoring committee" for *sans-papiers*, set up by PS, Green and Communist MPs, will visit Limell-Brévannes to ask for the situation of the African hunger strikers to be re-examined.

Two PS members on that committee, Serge Blisko and Yann Galut, do not go as far as advocating the regularisation of all those who ask for it, since they accept that certain criteria should be met. But they want the

'The prefect has hinted that he would allow hunger strikers to go underground'

government to "go further". "Will it take the death of a hunger striker to make us realise that this situation is untenable?" asks Blisko, who has called for the "emergency regularisation" of the strikers.

Twenty *sans-papiers* have been on hunger strike in Bordeaux since September 10; some have lost 10kg in weight and can no longer walk. "In a country where the rule of law



obtains, you have to respect the law," says Georges Payronne, prefect of the Gironde. He has, however, hinted that he would allow the hunger strikers to go underground. "No one will ask for them to be deported, and I myself don't expect to."

Here again, the tensions created by some very determined hunger strikers have galvanised local representatives of the "pluralist left" into action. The PS and the Human Rights League of the Gironde, have signed an appeal together with the Communist party, the Greens and two leftwing trade unions, urging that "negotiations with a view to regularising each of the 20 persons concerned should be concluded as soon as possible". The document has been sent to the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, the interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, and the Gironde prefect.

PS activist Monique Le Merre is one of the pillars of the movement which, in Le Havre, has succeeded since March in getting 50 out of 59 *sans-papiers* regularised — in successive and inexplicable waves, triggered by pressure from the support committee and from sponsors.

Le Merre is mystified as to why two Mauritians, who said their lives would be at risk if they were sent back home, were regularised as soon as they had been appointed spokesmen of the movement, while two hunger-striking compatriots, who had been in France for the same length of time, obtained nothing.

In another case, a Guinean originally denied the right of asylum ended up being regularised for "medical reasons", which he had never put forward as an argument. "They told us: 'Don't complain, the main thing is that he has been regularised'," says Le Merre.

She notes that interior ministry officials have since adopted a harder line, and thinks she knows why: "They don't want to stick their necks out. They're waiting for Chevènement to come back." On September 2, the interior minister nearly died and spent days in a coma after an operation went wrong. Now convalescing, he is due back at his desk in January.

(October 31)

Additional reporting in Bordeaux by Claudia Courtols

Dumas happy to sup with the enemy

EDITORIAL

THERE was already an Aquitaine scandal, as there is most definitely a Dumas scandal. The first, centred on France's biggest oil company, in the hands of the legal authorities; the second, involving the former foreign minister, Roland Dumas, is of a political nature.

The Dumas affair is currently being played out before the "bureau of public opinion" in which Christine Deviers-Joncœur explicitly appeals to her provocatively titled book, *Le Putain de la République* (The Republic's Whore), just published by Calmann-Lévy.

In a straightforward account, free of hypocrisy, Deviers-Joncœur tells how Elf's chairman, Alfred Sirven, gave her millions of dollars via Swiss bank accounts — plus free use of a company credit card and unlimited expenses — to do just one thing: "control" Dumas, then François Mitterrand's foreign minister.

She describes herself as Sirven's "foreign ministry card", and gives numerous examples of how that "card" was used to engineer appointments, facilitate contracts, accommodations, and even a visit by President Mitterrand to a Gulf state where Elf had huge interests.

"Having a powerful emotional relationship with a man while at the same time being aware that the relationship served a financial purpose was not an easy thing to handle," Deviers-Joncœur admits, before adding "But then surely love always carries a price tag."

The trouble is that this highly paid lobbying "job", as Deviers-Joncœur describes it, was not carried out without Dumas's knowledge. Deviers-Joncœur is no fleeing or occasional mistress, but the foreign minister's Parisian partner, whom he flaunted at receptions and during official trips.

It got to the point where Dumas poked fun at his "Man Hari", and even once asked her: "Are you here for me or for Elf?" Deviers-Joncœur's book, which does not touch on issues not subject to legal proceedings, publicly confirms what had already filtered out from the investigating magistrates' office: that a minister of the republic had behaved at the very least badly in allowing his public and private life to become confused to point where his partner was paid to lean on him on behalf of huge financial interests.

That same man is currently president of the Constitutional Council, in other words the guardian of French republican values. Surely he can't hang on to his job, now the truth is out.

(October 30)

Le Monde

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Gingrich's Going May Not Please White House

ANALYSIS

David S. Broder

THE House of Representatives Newt Gingrich is leaving behind is not the same House in which he became Speaker four years ago, let alone the one to which he was elected in 1978. His legacy will be felt not only by future members of Congress but by President Clinton, who surprisingly may miss Gingrich both as a partner and an antagonist.

These are the observations of a number of the Georgian's colleagues of both parties and students of Congress, interviewed last weekend in the aftermath of Gingrich's surprise announcement that he was stepping down.

Although his tenure was shorter than many of his predecessors, his impact on the House and American politics may prove to be much larger. His ascendancy marked not just a Republican renaissance but the emergence of the South as the new base of the GOP. He strengthened the Speaker's authority, reduced the legislative discretion of committee chairmen, empowered backbenchers — and helped make the House even more of a partisan cockpit than it had been before.

His departure may complicate life for Clinton. It robs the White House of its favorite target and at the same time deprives the president of a partner in the opposition party who was almost always willing to help on tough international issues and — at least occasionally — in cutting domestic policy deals.

Whoever succeeds him, said former representative Vin Weber, R-Minnesota, a Gingrich friend and ally, "the next leader will not be as strong as Newt or as capable of making dramatic moves. Being party leader as well as Speaker is perilous. The House members got tired of that. It was too big a burden."

Defending him all the time, the next Speaker will run the House — period — and we won't have a party leader until we nominate our presidential candidate.

The change will be felt at the White House as well as on Capitol Hill. Ever since Gingrich led the new Republican majority in a budget confrontation that shut down major parts of the federal government over the Christmas holidays in 1995, he has been the bogeyman Democrats have used to raise

The Washington Post



Newt Gingrich hugs neighbour Lucia Roy in Marietta, Georgia, before he stepped down as Speaker

money and roll up the vote. In 1996, Clinton ran for re-election against a mythical opponent named "Dole-Gingrich," and again this year, it was Gingrich's backstage management of the impeachment proceedings against Clinton that Democrats used to rally the troops.

But the reverse of that coin, as another Gingrich intimate, Robert S. Walker, R-Pennsylvania, put it, is that "Clinton loses someone he can make a deal with. Newt had no peers in the Republican Party, so when it came time to get something done, he could usually do it, even if he had to force the process. The problem for the next speaker is that he will have many peers, people who think they are on the same level, with the same power, and they will try to drive agendas and muster forces themselves."

That difference may be particularly crucial when it comes to foreign policy. Gingrich, a student of history who spent part of his youth in France, offered what Thomas E. Mann, the Brookings Institution scholar on Congress, called "instinctive, patriotic support to a president of the opposite party on the big international questions of trade and foreign policy. There aren't many like him around."

Gingrich's departure is also likely to leave a larger vacuum than that of most of his predecessors because he was so successful in centralizing power in the speakership. "Starting with the Contract With America," Mann said, "he created the notion that the agenda for the House, and for each of its committees, was set by the party leadership — meaning himself."

Gingrich also broke the precedent of seniority determining committee chairmanships, for example, by skipping over several more experienced members to make Bob Liv-

ingston head of the House Appropriations Committee. And he picked junior members of unusual promise for spots on key policy panels.

Ironically, it was the revolt of some of those same members, who complained that he had backed away from some of the goals of the "revolution" or had stirred too much personal controversy, which undercut his position and led to his decision to step down.

Yet Republicans came to depend on his leadership — whether they agreed with his instincts or not. In the 104th Congress of 1995-96, Gingrich wielded the Contract With America to insist that legislation reflect the party's agenda. But even in the last Congress, when committee chairmen began to reassert their prerogatives, Gingrich still flexed his muscle.

THE overthrow of the old order in the House was signaled on Gingrich's first day as Speaker, when a package of radical rules changes was approved in a marathon session that ran well past midnight. The most significant change set a six-year limit on tenure of committee chairmen and an eight-year limit for the Speaker. The rules also cut the size of committee staffs, banned proxy voting, and applied federal employment and antidiscrimination laws to Congress itself.

But in other respects, Gingrich's tenure marked a further rush toward partisanship in the House, not just in his being disciplined by the House in 1997 and forced to pay a \$300,000 penalty, but in a consistent pattern of party-line voting.

With the balance of power between the parties in the House even narrower now than it has been during Gingrich's four years, that sharp partisan edge may be his most lasting legacy.

Zyuganov Assailed Over Anti-Semitism

David Hoffman in Moscow

COMMUNIST Party leader Gennady Zyuganov has come under a wave of criticism for openly anti-Semitic remarks made by a member of his parliamentary faction, who said "yids" were responsible for Russia's economic malaise.

An ailing President Boris Yeltsin last week denounced Zyuganov and said he was "indignant" at the Communists' "aggressive" remarks. "What has happened has not been evident in Russia for many years," Yeltsin said in a statement from Sochi, where he is recuperating from a series of illnesses.

The remarks were made by Gen. Albert Makashov at a rally on October 4 in Samara, southeast of Moscow. Since then, the Communists have been under pressure to take action against Makashov, but Zyuganov has resisted, saying Makashov had received an internal party reprimand, which was enough.

Makashov is an outspoken extremist who was jailed in 1993 for his part in an armed attempt to storm a television station during Yeltsin's violent confrontation with parliament. He later received amnesty.

The lower house of parliament, the State Duma, in which the Communists are the largest faction, refused to admonish Makashov. A mild, compromise resolution, which said Makashov's remarks "provoked concern," drew only 107 votes, far short of the 226 votes needed to pass. Most of the 132-member Communist faction voted against the resolution or abstained.

Anti-Semitism has a long history in Russia and the Soviet Union, but the latest controversy has a contemporary subtext because many of the new Russian financial tycoons are Jewish. They control two of the three major Russian television networks, whose leading anchors and commentators have also been a target of the Communists' wrath in recent weeks.

The devaluation of the ruble in August has triggered economic hardship in the Russian provinces, and Makashov's remarks seem aimed at stirring up racial and ethnic resentments toward wealthy Jews. In his original remarks, Makashov said reformers should be "put in the dock," and he complained there were "no Russians in the government, although 85 percent of the population of our country is made up of indigenous Russians."

Zyuganov has repeated the Communist Party slogan that the party

stands for "friendship and brotherhood among the people," but his refusal to denounce Makashov has provoked sharp criticism.

Boris Berezovsky, one of the leading financiers, who also plays a key role in Russia's largest television channel, denounced Zyuganov after the Duma vote. "The Communist Party placed itself outside the laws of the civilized world by virtually supporting the anti-Semitic statements of Gen. Makashov," he told the Interfax news agency.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, a presidential contender who has been a frequent ally of the Jewish community here, said Makashov's comments were "wild, Neanderthal and could very well destroy that which has still been preserved in the Russian Federation — inter-ethnic contacts, inter-ethnic accord." Yeltsin capped the criticism with his statement, saying that "any attempt to insult ethnic feelings or limit the rights of citizens for ethnic reasons will be cut short." He vowed that "extremism will not take the upper hand in Russia."

● Russia and the United States reached agreement last week on a food aid package to help Russia through the winter in the wake of a poor harvest and hardship caused by devaluation of the ruble and skyrocketing prices of imported food.

The U.S. food aid envisioned in three protocols signed here comprises more than 3 million tons of wheat and foodstuffs, officials said. The first agreement calls for the United States to advance a \$600 million loan for the purchase of 1.5 million tons of food, including 500,000 tons of corn, 300,000 tons of soybean meal, 200,000 tons of soybeans, 200,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of rice. It also would pay for 120,000 tons of beef, 50,000 tons of pork and 30,000 tons of non-fat dry milk, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

In the second agreement, the United States said it would donate 1.5 million tons of wheat to Russia, which will be processed into flour and sold on the Russian market. The third agreement calls for humanitarian aid of 100,000 tons of food, to be delivered directly to Russia's regions and charities, many of which are facing a difficult winter, after one of Russia's worst harvests in half a century.

The United States is to provide \$260 million for food transportation. The supplies will start coming in December and continue for the first half of 1999, officials said.

Defiant Nasreen looks to West for help

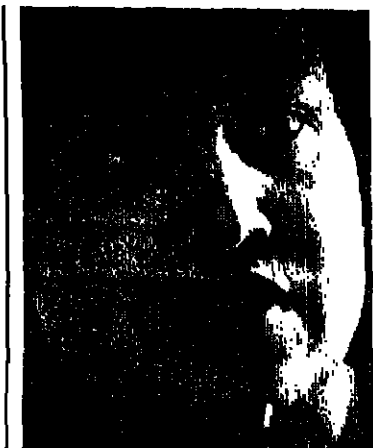
Jean-Baptiste Naudet

"DEATH to the ungodly Taslima Nasreen!" and "Arrest the infidel and string her up!" are the kind of cries that rise from the crowd of Muslim fanatics who demonstrate after Friday's prayers in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh.

The object of their hatred, who had to flee Bangladesh in 1994 to escape prosecution and the wrath of fundamentalists, returned from exile on September 14 to be at the bedside of her dying mother.

Today, as in 1994, fundamentalists accuse the 35-year-old novelist of having "offended the Koran" in her books, which denounce the condition of women in Bangladesh, where nine out of 10 people are Muslim. They have once again offered anyone who kills Nasreen a reward of \$5,500 — a huge sum in Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries.

The authorities have responded with conflicting signals: on the one hand, the justice ministry has ordered her arrest for having "hurt people's religious feelings"; on the other, the foreign minister, Abud Saman Azad, has told Nasreen she can stay in the country with her sick mother "for humanitarian reasons". Both ministers have asked Nasreen to give herself up, but if convicted



Taslima Nasreen: the Salman Rushdie of Bangladesh?

she faces a maximum of two years in jail and a fine.

The woman who has been described as the "Salman Rushdie of Bangladesh" has gone into hiding. "It's like being in prison," she laments. She has issued appeals for help by telephone and e-mail, says she is "afraid of being murdered at any time", and has demanded the protection of the Bangladeshi authorities. She has also asked Western governments to put pressure on Dhaka to protect her.

Leading figures in the West, and particularly in France, have begun

to respond. Thirty of them, including Sylviane Jospin, the prime minister's wife, and the writer Elisabeth Badinter, have signed a petition asking the French government to intervene on Nasreen's behalf.

Nasreen is pinning her hopes on international pressure of this kind, as there seems to be no end to her nightmare.

One of Nasreen's major problems is that most Bangladeshi people have little time for her. The Islamic clergy heartily loathe this gynaeecologist-turned-rebel, and even the feminists and the non-religious intelligentsia have been slow to come to her defence, although she won the Sakharov Prize in 1994, and is regarded as an international champion of freedom of speech.

They criticise her for relying too heavily on the international press. She is widely seen as little more than a darling of the Western media — who love a martyr — and, according to a professor of political science at Dhaka university, she's trying "to get back into the limelight... by putting herself across as another Salman Rushdie".

Farida Akhter, a Bangladeshi feminist, regards the fanatics' demands as "totally indefensible", but still feels that Nasreen is herself "responsible for the fact that no one has rushed to her aid".

In 1994, when the Nasreen affair first hit the headlines, the Bangladeshi feminist movement For Women felt she had gone too far. A member of that movement explained at the time that her immoderate language "had done greater harm than good to the cause she claimed to support. Now even liberals don't dare tackle the issue of women's freedom head on because they're afraid of being accused of supporting her."

Nasreen's critics feel that she has rocked the boat with her books and her "provocative" stands, causing Muslims to adopt an even harder line and jeopardising the slow process of negotiation with the Islamic clergy initiated by feminist associations in Bangladesh.

"She went too far too quickly, all on her own," says an expert observer. Yet Nasreen refuses to back down. Certain Islamists, who would prefer to take the heat out of the situation, have suggested to her that she should apologise for having insulted the Koran.

Her answer, given on French television, was uncompromising: "I don't believe in the Koran, therefore I've never said it should be changed. I've called for the abolition of the Koranic law, sharia, on the grounds that it is a discriminatory law which oppresses women in Bangladesh. I shall never apologise, as I've done nothing wrong."

(October 30)

No Circus, No Empty Tent

EDITORIAL

BY THEIR showing in last week's election, congressional Republicans are suddenly in full retreat from the prospect of presidential impeachment. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde has announced that the committee would try to avoid significant new fact-finding by asking

President Clinton to stipulate to a series of facts. He said the committee's only major witness might be Kenneth Starr. Other Republicans, who only recently were stressing their constitutional obligation to examine evidence of "possibly impeachable offenses, now talk of the need to put this matter to rest."

This little two-step forces the question of whether the Republicans were ever sincere

in their professed consternation about the Monica Lewinsky affair. We believe they were correct in stressing the importance of the inquiry, and it should therefore take more than a setback in last week's election to curtail it. Mr. Hyde argued that the planned proceedings were not a response to the vote but a judgment about the best way to move forward expeditiously and rigorously. It's a tough sell.

Avoid re-investigation by asking the White House to stipulate to the matters of fact? Sure. But

this strategy can take the committee only so far. The actual record that now exists is not conclusive on certain key points, particularly whether President Clinton instructed Betty Currie to retrieve from Ms. Lewinsky gifts he had given her. Congress cannot avoid these questions, whatever the chances of their being answered authoritatively.

To be sure, the vote does seem to convey a lack of popular enthusiasm for the impeachment process. So much the better if this prompts second thoughts

among members of Congress who had been planning to expand the inquiry into a political circus involving FBI files, the White House travel office and all the rest. It should also encourage members to deal with this matter quickly and fairly.

But before this process ends, the House must produce a factual record, a characterization of the president's conduct and a vote on that characterization. This was, and remains, the members' duty. Anything less will be an abdication and a sham.

Johanna

South Asia Sanctions Lifted

Thomas W. Lippman

PRESIDENT Clinton has decided to lift most of the economic sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan after their nuclear weapons tests last May to reward them for recent steps toward nuclear control agreements and to encourage them to do more, administration officials said last week.

Clinton notified the prime ministers of both countries by letter that he was exercising authority granted by Congress last month to waive the sanctions. Before Congress acted,

the U.S. sanctions were inflexible and indefinite, a fact cited by U.S. officials and by India and Pakistan as an obstacle to negotiations.

Clinton's decision follows six months of intensive diplomacy by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and other U.S. officials aimed at heading off a nuclear arms race in volatile South Asia.

Recently, Talbott said the nuclear standoff between the South Asian rivals threatened "an apocalypse. Even if they don't unleash that ultimate catastrophe, India and Pakistan are straining at the starting

blocks of a ruinously expensive arms race."

Nevertheless, officials cited steps taken by both countries toward accommodation with the international arms control system, including voluntary moratoriums on further tests. They have also committed to adhering to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; have begun taking part in negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for weapons; have resumed their direct dialogue about the disputed territory of Kashmir; and held their first bilateral discussions on the

nuclear issue, U.S. officials said. In response, Clinton has decided to allow U.S. trading organizations to participate in deals in both countries, U.S. officials said. He is also due to authorize the resumption of International Military Education and Training programs in both countries.

The U.S. sanctions and restrictions on funding by international development banks have had a marginal impact on India but have brought impoverished Pakistan to the brink of default on its international debt, U.S. officials said. For that reason, Clinton has also authorized U.S. officials to approve international bank loans and a debt restructuring agreement with the International Monetary Fund, pro-

vided Pakistan reaches agreement on a credible debt reform program. Left in place are bans on sales of equipment to both countries, restrictions on export items that could have military application, and U.S. objections to a project lending to India by international lending institutions.

The two countries' nuclear threats to undermine the framework of international nuclear control agreements. India challenged the legitimacy of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which specifies that only the five nuclear powers, the U.S., Russia, China, France and Britain, are allowed to possess nuclear weapons.

Scientists Isolate Self-Replenishing Cell

Rick Weiss

SCIENTISTS announced last week that they had achieved one of the most coveted goals in biology by isolating from human embryos and fetuses a primitive kind of cell that can grow into every kind of tissue, including muscle, bone and brain.

The long-awaited discovery of so-called human embryonic stem cells — the primordial human cells that give rise to all the specialized tissues in a developing fetus — was hailed by researchers as a landmark event with vast biomedical potential.

The cells multiply tirelessly in laboratory dishes, offering a self-replenishing supply from which scientists hope to grow replacement tissues for people with various diseases, including bone marrow for cancer patients, neurons for people with Alzheimer's disease, and pancreatic cells for people suffering from diabetes.

Already, researchers have used the stem cells to grow human heart muscle cells that beat in unison in a laboratory dish, as well as blood

cells, blood vessel cells, bone, cartilage, neurons and skeletal muscle.

But the cells are controversial because they offer embryologists a relatively simple method for creating "designer" babies bearing specific genetic traits that would become part of a child's permanent genetic lineage.

The discovery also threatens to reopen the debate over human cloning, since one of the simpler ways to grow transplantable replacement tissues from the new cells would call for a patient to be partially cloned.

And in the political arena, the new work has reignited a smoldering debate over a four-year-old congressional ban on the use of federal funds for human embryo research. With the therapeutic potential of embryonic cells suddenly very real, advocates are calling for a re-examination of that ban, saying the development of lifesaving applications will be hindered if federal dollars remain off-limits.

Such a re-examination would pit anti-abortion forces and other sup-

porters of the funding ban against powerful biomedical research that, in recent years, has become increasingly popular with Congress and the public.

Experts warned that significant work remains to be done before findings can be translated into useful therapies. Scientists know little about how to get stem cells to become one kind of cell or another. They've had some success getting them to become neurons or heart cells by adding specific hormones. But for the most part they must simply watch for the desired kind of cells to erupt out of a mass of maturing stem cells, then tease them away to be grown on their own.

The ability to purify single cell types will be crucial. In one set of experiments done in another laboratory, cardiac cells grown from mouse stem cells were injected into the hearts of living mice. A few minutes later, the cells had begun to cause along with the new cardiac tissue, other tissues began to grow out of the hearts.

When Tom Met Sally

OPINION
Ellen Goodman

IT MAY be that every generation gets the Thomas Jefferson it deserves. The Jefferson of my childhood was the face on the nickel and Mount Rushmore, the signature on the Declaration of Independence. The Jefferson of today is one of DNA tests, sex, scandal, hypocrisy, the Jefferson between the William and the Clinton.

At last, DNA tests have proved that the third president of the United States had an "improper relationship" with Sally Hemings — as if the relationship of master and slave were not improper enough. This founding father was the father of at least one of her children.

The old rumor, now a certainty, has opened up enough possibilities to tease contemporary minds and bewilder textbook writers.

To some, including two men writing in *Nature* where the DNA conclusions are reported, this is scientific proof of his flawed humanity: "Our heroes — and especially presidents — are not gods or saints, but flesh-and-blood humans, with all of the frailties and imperfections that this entails."

To others, it's more testimony to the colorful history of an America that extends like a rainbow, from the era when there were laws against miscegenation to the multi-

cultural society of Tiger Woods. It was Jefferson after all who wrote that "amalgamation produces a degradation" while all the while "amalgamating."

For still others, what matters is Tom and Sally. Was this a 38-year love affair between Jefferson and the half sister of his late wife, as romantic as it was doomed? As one visitor to Monticello asked, "If they were in love, what could they do?"

We remain more interested in the personal than the political. More fascinated by the sex than the economics of relationships. It is Sally Hemings' story, not those of Jefferson's other 200 slaves, that has struck our imagination. We want to know, in some perverse way, whether it was — how do I say this? — consensual sex. Whether she was a slave or just a slave for love.

As a slave owner, Thomas Jefferson could have gotten away with her murder. What is the possibility of a voluntary relationship, a love affair between property and property owner? Are we so riveted on private affairs that we have forgotten how much they are governed by impersonal forces? By the world outside?

Thomas Jefferson apparently allowed the children he had with Sally Hemings to "escape." He freed one in his will. But he never gave Sally the freedom to stay or leave.

In the world of our founding fathers, free women had legal rights somewhere between slaves and free

men. When these founders proclaimed "all men are created equal" they meant men.

Free wives were not property; they could they own property. Sally was promised the freedom of her children, but free wives knew the would lose children in divorce. When slaves were emancipated, the men were granted the legal status of their former masters; the women were granted the second-class citizenship of their former mistresses.

Can we truly love in captivity? There is no evidence that Jefferson and Hemings were Tom and Sally that they transcended the master and slave relationship to become loving companions. Nothing, that is, beyond our own romantic images and a wish born out of contemporary dismay at the abuse of power that what should be love.

Today, we have come to believe in the connection between love and equality. Too much dependency on much power makes us suspicious. How can a man know if he is loved or just feared? Can a dependent woman know if she loves or fears?

In our contemporary scandal because of our own consensus that love is based on mutual respect.

There was no "free love" for Tom and Sally because there was no freedom. Even in this scandal-obsessed generation, the issue isn't the Thomas Jefferson had sex with Sally Hemings. It's that he owned her. All the rest is the stuff of novels.

American Justice Goes on Trial in China

John Pomfret in Beijing

BANK teller Roberta Ramo was counting money on a summer afternoon last year, when a man with a bandanna over his face and a gun stuck in his belt appeared in front of her with a note: "Fill these here bags in 10 seconds or I'll blow you away."

Thus began, with Perry Mason-style tension, a program to teach Chinese jurists about the U.S. and German legal systems.

In front of an audience of judges, legal scholars and prosecutors gathered from throughout China, American and German judges and lawyers tried two identical cases in the first moot court presentation by Westerners for their Chinese counterparts.

The Americans brought in a big American flag and the seal of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to give their half of the affair an air of authenticity. It wasn't *12 Angry Men*, but they put on a good show.

The week-long moot court in a cavernous auditorium in the Beijing Supreme People's Court illustrated the recent strides made by China's legal system. Reform of the legal system is perhaps one of the hottest topics today among Chinese who are interested in political reform. The Ford Foundation and the American Bar Association, co-sponsors of the program, have been trying for three years to get China's approval to put on this demonstration.

"This is an important development," said Ramo, the "bank teller" who is actually a past president of the American Bar Association. "The idea of seeing an American courtroom in the Beijing's People's Court, well, it's kind of mind-blowing."

But China, experts say, still has a long way to go in reforming its legal system. The human rights organization Amnesty International estimates 2,000 people are in jail here for political crimes, 250 of them because of participation in the student-led protests around Tiananmen Square in 1989 that were crushed by the Army. Some 230,000 people are being held in labor camps, and police still retain the power to sentence people to three years in a labor camp without a trial. Torture occurs routinely even though in 1987 China signed the international Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

A living example of China's legal weakness sat outside the high court during the American-German program. A woman silently protested the sentencing of her son, a minor, apparently without a public trial. She was chased off by police.

As is often the case with these exchanges, everybody learns a little about everyone else. In the criminal case, for example, equipped with the same facts, a three-judge German panel convicted a man of bank robbery. An American-style jury of 12, with a prominent Filipino journalist, American students and a woman who had served as the forewoman on a double murder trial in Oakland, California, acquitted him.

Many Chinese in the audience, noting that their judicial system is closer in form to Germany's in its reliance on judges, expressed amazement at the American jury system, and its dependence on common citizens to determine guilt.

"We've grown up with the idea that experts have to decide everything for us," said Li Guoru, 27, a

doctoral law candidate at Beijing University. "To see the jury deliberate this case was really amazing. It's incredible to us that normal people are given this responsibility, to vote their conscience, to decide what's right and wrong."

Li and others also expressed wonder at the US's ban on illegal searches. In the American criminal case, a police officer, finding one of the alleged bank robbers at a bus station, searches him and finds a gun and betting slips. The gun was entered as evidence, but the betting slips were thrown out by the judge.

The American cast of characters seems to have walked straight out of a TV serial. Terence MacCarthy

is a gruff, bear-like Irish American. The executive director of the Federal Defender Program in northern Illinois, he played the public defender, tossing out such lines as "Where's the beef?" and "My client is guilty. Guilty of being stupid," to a somewhat uncomprehending Chinese audience.

As the prosecutor, there was Ralph Martin, the smooth-talking, Shakespeare-quoting, Republican district attorney from Suffolk County, Massachusetts. Martin recently achieved national prominence when his office indicted MIT's Phi Gamma Delta fraternity for manslaughter in the drinking death of MIT freshman Scott

Krueger. Martin made the trip to China because he is running unopposed for re-election.

"The purpose of this is to show that the rule of law protects everybody," Martin said. "As their legal system develops, [the Chinese] will not just focus on punishment, they will have to begin focusing on protecting rights."

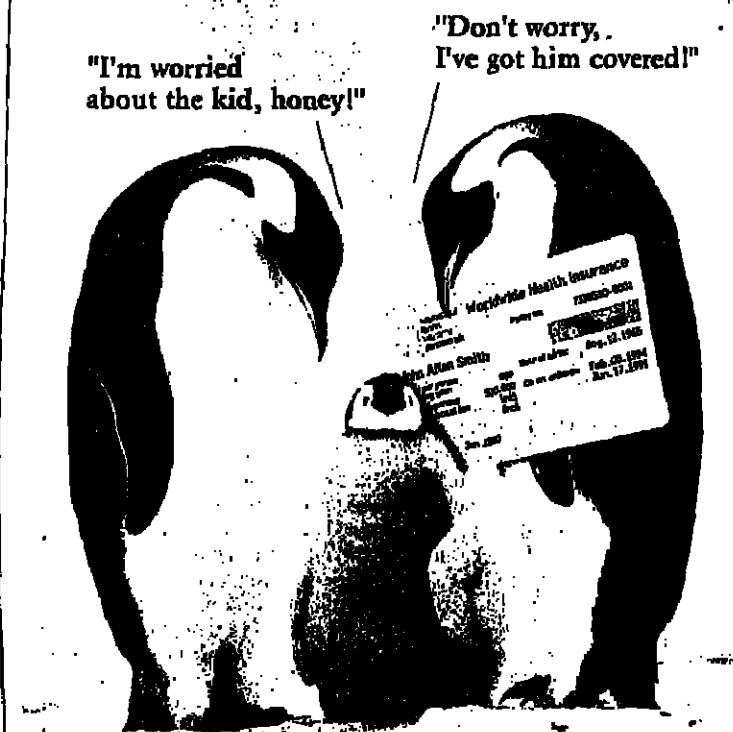
Sometimes during the week-long seminar, it appeared the two sides were talking past each other. In a question period following the American moot court, one Chinese jurist asked MacCarthy a simple question: If you are too conscientious in defending your client, will the police give you any trouble?

MacCarthy and the other Americans didn't seem to get the question. In China, police have been known to threaten defense lawyers with jail or beatings.

Sometimes the Americans seemed more optimistic about recent talk of legal reform than their Chinese colleagues.

Wendy Locks, an American lawyer studying China's legal system at Beijing University, listed a series of changes to China's criminal codes. One mandates that suspects have a right to see a lawyer. Another protects suspects against torture. A third mandates that prosecutors show suspects a card detailing their rights. "They're trying, they're beginning. It's all new," she said.

A Chinese legal scholar, listening to Locks, remarked softly: "They still can do anything they want."



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Of Marvels and Monsters

John Crowley

WONDERS AND THE ORDER OF NATURE
1150-1750
By Lorraine Daston and Katherine Park
Zone, 511 pp., \$34

"IT'S NOT that I'm curious," my great-aunt Anne used to say, "I just want to know." She was expressing an age-old disapproval of curiosity that has roots in the Church Fathers, particularly Augustine. Curiosity was a form of lust, a wandering cupid of the eye and the mind as potentially sinful as that of the body. Not only are we not to be curious about our neighbors' business and things that don't concern us; we should avoid peering uselessly and impertinently into God's creation as well. The appropriate emotion when contemplating creation was wonder, which marvels but does not seek to pry. How these two complementary impulses, curiosity and wonder, changed meanings, moral worth, objects and consequences over the course of eight or 10 centuries is the hugely ambitious subject of this large, handsome and endlessly intriguing book.

Wonders have a history, and different sorts of things have counted as wonders at different times. What counts as the order of nature changes, and what sticks out from tests, transcends or violates that order has to change as well. Medieval writers generally considered that marvels were frequent in far-away places but rare in the center of the world (that is, the Mediterranean countries). Somewhere in Africa or Asia or the Antipodes were races of people with dog's heads, or whose heads grew below their shoulders, or trees that bore gourds inside which were perfect little lambs. In far-off Ireland, there were geese that grew from barnacles. For all the medieval writer knew, anything was possible out there, and there was no philosophical principle



ILLUSTRATION FROM "WONDERS AND THE ORDER OF NATURE"

that could hinder God's creativity. But there were other kinds of wonders, and other forms of wonder, that were more problematic. If lots of far-off wonders showed God's creative powers, individual wonders close at hand might portend God's anger. Conjoined twins, two-headed crows, meteors and double suns were "monsters" or "portents" or "prodigies," all words indicating that something was being shown or predicted or brought about, usually something very bad. The question about stories of wonders and monsters of this kind was not so much Is it true? as What does it mean?

It was the study of some medieval writers to make wonders cease. Wonder was akin to fear and shock and arose from ignorance of general principles and causes. The contrast

between those who know and those who don't is constant from Albertus down to the present, even as the valuation of wonder and curiosity changes. Sometimes the elite and the educated can appreciate wonders that common people are too coarse to marvel at — wonders of art, rare gems, automata, coral, sea shells — and sometimes the ignorant and the vulgar marvel at things that the philosopher knows to be part of the order of nature and therefore not wonders at all.

As jam-packed with stuff as the great collections of the Renaissance princes which are among its continuing subjects, *Wonders and the Order of Nature* defies summary; reading it and trying to keep in mind the constantly and subtly shifting meanings of a dozen or so key

terms is dizzying but fun. The same themes and problems, even the same wonders and the same remarks about them, return again and again in a sort of tidal fashion that can be lulling as well as delightful. But at length a vital historical argument comes clear.

It is a common assumption that the taming of wonders and the ceasing of miracles proceed steadily as human kind "grows up." The authors show that wonders never ceased, that the rationalist savants of the Age of Enlightenment never even began a thorough program of explaining away the accumulated wonders of the centuries, and that the very idea of a human "childhood" transcended by the growth of science is itself an Enlightenment myth.

In fact, the intellectual establishment of Europe in the 18th century was reacting to a century of turmoil and terror, in which wonders — portents, prodigies and monsters — were used in the overthrowing of prelates and princes, Catholic and Protestant. But skeptics have been as common as enthusiasts in any age. The Emperor Frederick II in the 13th century sent to Ireland for barnacle-covered driftwood, wrote that "none . . . of these shellfish exhibited any form of a bird," and decided he didn't believe the story. Robert Moray, however, in the enlightened 17th century, thought he saw tiny birds growing in the shells. Voltaire believed in "maternal impression." Pregnant women scared by bloodshed could have children with bloodstained birthmarks. My great-aunt Anne thought so too.

An entire further volume, in fact, could have been written about the persistence of wonders in 19th-century America: the discovery of "deep time" and its wonders (dinosaurs, mammoths); and the history of "freaks" displayed for the sake of entertainment, exotic thrills and uncanny fear. Maybe the contrary valuations of wonder, curiosity, amazement and the marvelous are not actually historical at all but cognitive programs with a certain maximum of alternative outcomes — programs running on that marvel of marvels, the human brain.

gled to promote equality. Many of Evans's vivid short essays — on the Homestead Strike of 1892, the Pullman strike of 1894, the Scottsboro Boys case, the murders of Emmett Till and of Medgar Evers — remind us that poor people and minorities suffered grievous injustices during the "American Century."

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Paperback

Nonfiction

99 Lives: Cats in History, Legend and Literature, by Howard Loxton (Chronicle, \$17.95)

DESPITE unfair bad press, cats have always had parties among the literary and artistic. Baudelaire was nutty about the. Raymond Chandler considered Persimmon, Taki, his "feline secretary" named Catarina, perched on his shoulder. Edward Lear, when he moved, built a new house identical to the old, so that his aging cat, Pheasant, wouldn't feel dislocated. When Matisse was confined to bed, his faithful black cat kept him company. This book, by British cat expert Howard Loxton, explores the habits, personality, lore and appeal of many other, more independent best friends — whom, Victor Hugo said, "God made . . . to give humankind the pleasure of caressing the tiger."

The Experts Speak: The Definitive Compendium of Authoritative Misinformation, by Christopher Carl and Victor Navasky (Villard, \$15)

THIS big book of wrongheaded pronouncements naturally includes caustic quotations from economists who thought the stock market was just fine in 1929, but also leaps forward to another case when the naysayers went too far. "The message of October, '88," should not be taken lightly," said one Robert R. Prechter. "The great bull market is over." In fact, as the authors point out, the market came back for a 10-year streak of bulliness that may or may not be over now. It's one thing to be wrong quite another to commit one's name to print. For sheer loquaciousness, it is hard to beat this statement from an American Nazi newspaper circa 1940: "Quite a number of people describe the German classic author, Shakespeare, as belonging to English literature, because — quite accidentally born at Stratford-on-Avon — he was forced by the authorities to write in English."

How to Improve Your Odds Against Cancer, by John F. Potter (Lifetime Books, \$14.95)

THERE is perhaps no word more frightening than "cancer," a disease whose choice of victims can seem perilously random. Who gets it, and why? Is it all an environmental and genetic crap shoot? Surgical oncologist John Potter, founder of the Lombardi Cancer Research Center at Georgetown University, aims in this no-nonsense book to put such fears in perspective. "I can tell you positively that you can decrease your chance of developing cancer by adopting a healthy pattern of living," Potter says, discussing the biology of the disease, how it moves on to the roles of genetics, tobacco, alcohol, diet, and chemicals and drugs play in the development of cancer, including lines for early detection, including warning signs and how to do self-exams, which can be vital to successful treatment. He also advocates taking early and aggressive action: you do receive a cancer diagnosis. The bottom line, in Potter's view, "Cancer, in many of its forms, is controllable and curable disease."

GUARDIAN WEEKLY
November 15 1998GUARDIAN WEEKLY
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PhD students spend years working like slaves, with no pay, and no guarantee of a job at the end. Ouida Taaffe wonders why they bother

Labours of love

WOULD YOU choose to spend three or four years of your adult life (and possibly more) living on the breadline and working in isolation just to gain a title? Of course not. Who would?

It may seem like a ludicrous suggestion, but for those who write a doctoral thesis it can, in the worst-case scenario, be an accurate description of what they do with their time. So, why embark on a PhD? Down in the basement, where the PhD students who have made it to "writing up" huddle over their computer screens, the verdict was unanimous. They did a doctorate for love. They had a transitory obsession with Plato's dialogues, Heidegger's understanding of Hegel, or revisionist Marxist theory that neither the drizzle of financial misery, nor the cold winds of social isolation could shift.

They were doing a PhD because it made them happy. These are people who are not pretending when they say they are fascinated by semiotic theory. Their eyes light up when the librarian brings them the big, heavy pile of dusty books they ordered. They enjoy sitting down to write about theory. Yes, they even know what it is.

But these are unworried arts students. Science students, surely, are more pragmatic than this. After all, their courses are fact-based, hands-on and can lead directly to employment. However, take the lift to the eighth floor and the chemistry lab and things are essentially

no different. Crouched over computer screens, nursing cups of coffee, they talk about the "buzz of discovery" and "loving what they do despite the huge sacrifice".

How much of a sacrifice is it? What keeps people living on a pitance and drinking lukewarm machine coffee over several years while all their peers are out getting a life? What is doing a PhD like?

The denizens of the computing room in the basement and the chemistry lab on the eighth floor took between three and four years to reach the "writing up" stage. This

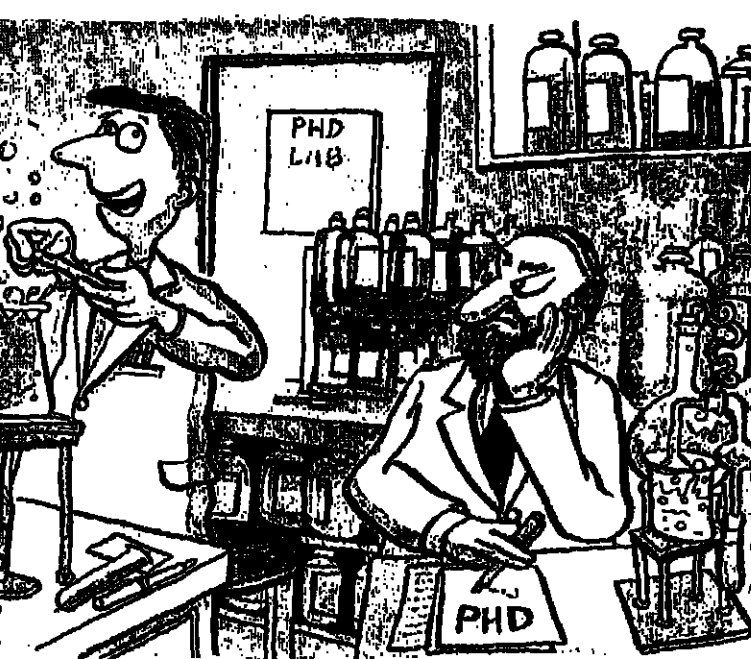
was three or four years of trying to ask the right questions and answer them. Three or four years of sitting alone in the library, or over a graph, hoping for inspiration. Three or four years of scribbling reams of notes.

Most of them, in fact, devoted more time to the PhD on a daily basis than others do to a paid career. This, of course, is partly due to time pressure — funding, if you have it, is limited to three years. That is hardly news. What may come as a surprise, however, is that

most found doing a PhD a real emotional roller coaster. Vasiliou Stavros, who is completing a PhD in chemical physics at King's College, London, compared the "depression" of not getting hoped-for results with the "adrenalin rush" of things actually working out.

Arts students go through the same steep ups and downs. Few are as consistently calm as Dr. Raphael Woolf, who now teaches philosophy at the University of Liverpool. Before doing his PhD he was an auditor in the City of London and found studying for a doctorate "incredibly civilised". Where every day in accountancy was "difficult and boring", he found a PhD "enjoyable" and "a nice way to spend a few years".

It can, then, be personally fulfilling too. What, however, are the gains? After all, it stops you earning money for several years and only a minority of people who do a PhD actually go on to become academics. As Sheridan Hughes, consultant occupational psychologist at Career Analysts points out, it can even be



counter-productive. A Masters tends to be viewed positively, but a PhD in a non-vocational subject will not necessarily lend weight to a CV. It may be seen by prospective employers as "self-indulgent", too "ivory-tower", or as a "delaying tactic".

Humanities research, in particular, has direct, practical application only in academic work and information- and library-based careers. Dr. Clara Seeger, for example, who deals in equities for the investment bank Warburg Dillon Read, does not use factual knowledge gained from her PhD in German literature in her day-to-day work.

However, she values the education it gave her and feels that the

skills that the PhD fostered, such as self-discipline, independence of thought, stamina, and determination, are vital to her role.

Dr. Woolf, on the other hand, sees the gains as "intangible". As far as he was concerned, doing a PhD was something with only "a very tenuous link to any career. It provided me with an education, rather than with new CV skills."

There is much to be said for a PhD if you really love getting to grips with the nitty-gritty of a particular problem. However, it does help if you are slightly obsessive, have manic-depressive tendencies and don't care too much about money.

Getting the Big Picture

James T. Patterson

AN AMERICAN CENTURY
By Harold Evans
Knopf, 720 pp., \$50

HAROLD EVANS, a well-known British journalist and publisher, first came to the United States in 1956, whereupon he spent a year crisscrossing the country. Since 1984 he has lived and worked in New York. *An American Century* offers his reflections on the 100 years between 1889, the century of the start of the Republic, and the collapse of communism in 1989.

Hoping to reach a wide readership, Evans explains that he has tried to write an "accessible popular political history." Photographs, illustrations, biographies and brief narrative sections combine to create what he calls self-contained "modular units." The casual reader, he adds, "can dip into any spread of pages and absorb what he or she chooses without having to begin at the beginning: history for browsers."

He has indeed produced an accessible history. Evans writes engagingly and has an excellent ear for apt anecdotes and quotations. Most of his biographical essays —

which feature all the presidents from Benjamin Harrison through Ronald Reagan, as well as many other figures — are gems of description. And they include a wide range of people from sea power advocate Adm. Alfred Thayer Mahan and the black nationalist Marcus Garvey to Malcolm X, Oliver North, Harvey Milk, and Betty Friedan.

Like Arthur Schlesinger Jr., whom he cites frequently, Evans celebrates the many great things — notably in the realm of foreign policy during the Cold War, and in the realm of civil rights in the 1960s — that Americans have accomplished during this century. Yet Evans, a liberal, also wishes that Americans had more often lived up to their ideals of equality and justice for all. Thus he opens his account by deploring the exploitation and violence that nearly destroyed American Indian culture in the late 19th century. His second chapter, which praises the populists of the 1890s, employs the sub-headline "Money Shouts," followed by a commentary on social Darwinism labeled "Survival of the Fittest."

In the same vein, Evans regularly laments the defeats of reformers, such as Eugene Debs, who strug-

gled to promote equality. Many of Evans's vivid short essays — on the Homestead Strike of 1892, the Pullman strike of 1894, the Scottsboro Boys case, the murders of Emmett Till and of Medgar Evers — remind us that poor people and minorities suffered grievous injustices during the "American Century."

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Vietnam

DFID is re-orientating the UK development assistance programme in Vietnam to focus on poverty elimination. A new country strategy paper has been developed to provide a framework for future co-operation, with particular emphasis on promoting growth which will help the poor of Vietnam. To help with the evolution and development of this new agenda, DFID SE Asia is creating a Programme Support Office which will take an interdisciplinary approach to increasing opportunities for the rural poor by way of improved education and health and access to water and sanitation. Consequently, we are now seeking experienced rural infrastructure and development professionals to play a key role in this new team. The appointments will be for a period of 3 years and a salary commensurate with qualifications and experience will be paid.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 7 December 1999.

For further details and application form, please write to: Appointments Officer, Ref No AH304/3A/GW, Abercrombie House, Engleham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, stating Ref No AH304/3A, clearly on your envelope, or telephone 01355 843545.

DFID is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and applications for these positions are sought from both women and men.

DFID Department for International Development

Rural Infrastructure Field Manager

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Qualifications

You must be a chartered member of an appropriate professional institution, with at least four years' relevant work experience, which should include two years spent in a developing country. Key competencies will include the ability to manage projects, consultants and contractors, backed by first class team leadership, communication and negotiating skills. You should be professionally experienced in rural road and water engineering. Knowledge of DFID or other aid agency work will be an advantage.

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Your role will be to co-ordinate in-country responsibilities for the identification and development of programmes designed to improve income opportunities and human resource development in a sustainable manner. You'll work closely with the rural infrastructure specialist to bring a rural development perspective to rural infrastructure and water and sanitation programmes. It is important that these DFID supported interventions draw on the experiences of other agencies and thereby influence national policy formulation related to rural development, and also contribute to improving the understanding of the causes, characteristics and consequences of rural poverty in Vietnam.

Qualifications

You must have experience of working in a developing country, together with proven experience of development programmes in rural areas and in addressing national policies on rural development. Practical experience of poverty reduction programmes and working with Government and NGOs are also essential. Experience of South East Asia and working with CSOs/CBOs will be advantageous. Knowledge of DFID project cycle management and programme preparation procedures are required, but training can be provided if necessary.

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Opportunity in Nepal

Social Development Adviser (Kathmandu)

Nepal District Health Strengthening Project

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Requests for details and an application form, quoting reference WWS/021, and enclosing an A4 size (39g UK only) to Mark Hopworth, Overseas Appointment Services, The British Council, Bridgewater House, 68 Whitworth Street, Manchester M1 4JH, UK. Telephone 0161 967 7393, fax 0161 967 7387.

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PROGRAMME MANAGER
Tibet Autonomous Region, China

£20,778

Save the Children Fund (UK) has been working in Tibet Autonomous Region since 1990. There are currently two programmes in the region: education, and environmental health. Both programmes work in close partnership with local authorities to support the improvement of basic education and water sanitation facilities in rural areas.

The education programme supports rural government primary schools, focusing on pre/primary school teacher training (including hygiene education), the introduction of child centred learning methods, small scale income generation to support the schools and adult literacy. The education work will be expanded from January 1999, with the implementation of the education component of an integrated rural development project, sponsored by the Chinese Government and the European Union, in Shigatse prefecture. The environmental health programme supports the implementation of hygiene education work, improved rural water supply, and operational and maintenance training at rural village level. All teaching and training is in the Tibetan language. There are also occasional emergency and rehabilitation projects in the region.

The Programme Manager will provide overall direction and management of SCF's work in Tibet, including management of the Education Advisor and the Environmental Health Programme Manager, and liaison with government, donors and other organisations.

You will be an experienced manager of development projects overseas with experience of working with government and local authorities. You will have experience of participatory approaches in your work, and either have a knowledge of Chinese or Tibetan, or be willing and able to study intensively to reach a working knowledge within a few months. A good sense of humour and the ability to work in isolated situations are also important.

The post has accompanied status and is offered on an initial 25 month contract. The salary should be tax free. You can also look forward to a benefits package including accommodation, flights and other living expenses. Candidates should note that an HIV test is required as part of the visa application for entrance into China.

Closing date: 14 December 1998. For further details please write to: Debi Topden, SCF Personnel Administrator at Overseas Personnel Department, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD or e-mail: dtopden@scfuk.org.uk or fax on 0171-795-7614. SCF aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

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Desires of peaceful primates

Robin McKie on US research that shows humans as essentially genial beings bound by a strong urge to gossip

FOR FREUD, it was sex; for Jung, a desire to communicate with the universal unconscious; and for the footballer Paul Gascoigne, six pints of lager, a biryani and a laugh with his mates.

Human desire is a funny business, in other words. And we all have different views: from procreation to our national team winning the World Cup.

We are what we want, and a group of US psychologists recently announced that they had identified the 15 fundamental desires that underpin all human actions.

Based on a survey of 2,500 respondents, the team produced a list of basic desires: sex, food, physical activity, the avoidance of pain, curiosity, honour (the desire to live within a code of conduct), a need for order, vengeance, social contact, family, social prestige and power.

"These desires — which we possess in varying amounts — are similar to those found in animals and are probably genetic in origin," believes Professor Steven Reiss, of Ohio State University.

The remaining three urges, according to the team, are yearnings for citizenship, independence and fear of social rejection. These are acquired, not inherited.

It is an intriguing study, though it has its critics. "You get people to answer statements, and then try to uncover the common characteristics that underpin them. It is a powerful technique, but it is also very subjective," said Dr. T. J. Wykes, of the Institute of Psychiatry, London. "What you get out depends on the assumptions you put in."

Dr. Steve Mithen, of Reading University, said: "I certainly don't

accept the idea that we share a sense of curiosity with other creatures." Animals, he argues, are inquisitive about unexpected objects in their environment, but do not have a generalised intellectual interest. "If the sun rose in the west, and set in the east, a chimpanzee — our cleverest evolutionary cousin — would not notice, or give a damn."

A more telling point is made by Frans de Waal, of Yerkes Regional Primate Research Centre in Atlanta. He stresses the criticality of reconciliation as a human attribute. Reiss ignores this.

"If you created a city like Manhattan and filled it with chimpanzees, you would end up with a murder rate that would make New York's current homicide levels look trivial," he says. "We are a species marked by a desire to make peace."

It is a point backed by paleontologist and essayist Stephen Jay Gould. "Homo sapiens is a remarkably genial species," he states. "Think how many millions of hours we can log for most people [who] go without noting anything more threatening than a raised third finger once a week or so."

Our peaceful nature is matched by humanity's burning desire to talk and to communicate, another desire not mentioned by the Ohio team. Professor Robin Dunbar of Liverpool University points out that we are easily the most communicative species on Earth, and most of our talk is simply trivial.

We dwell on personal relationships and experiences, and spend little time talking about science, art or religion — though we think we do. And the reason we concentrate on trivia is simple: language is the cement of peacemaking.

While other primates seek to calm others and ensure group stability through grooming, we do it through gossip — and that is far more effective. You can talk to more than one person at a time.

We live to gossip, in other words.

Flexible firms were supposed to be good for bosses and staff. Instead they erode loyalty, spread fear and ruin lives. Desmond Christy reports on a new study

Downsizing to disaster

"THERE may be trouble ahead," sang Fred Astaire, who can have had no idea that this song would one day be used as a TV commercial to sell pensions to executives who are about to lose their jobs. With a pension, we are assured, we can "face the music and dance". The advertisement closes by promising that these particular pensions are "flexible", and will "adapt" to our changing needs.

Let's hope these pensions are as flexible as promised, because "flexibility" is the mantra of the new "dynamic capitalism". And its message is clear: if you can't cope with change, you don't have a future. Few workers in the 1990s will have escaped the propaganda for this message.

Richard Sennett, speaking through a cloud of tobacco smoke in his office at the London School of Economics, is not as optimistic as the pension provider. His message is that modern capitalism has entirely unexpected consequences for the "flexible" worker of the 1990s. The title of his new book-length essay gets straight to the point: *The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of Work in The New Capitalism*.

What does Sennett, one of the world's most distinguished social scientists, mean by character? He does not mean personality. "What I mean is the capacity of someone to sustain for a long period of time a set of purposes and aims that they realise through their own actions. What is corroded by modern capitalism are things like the experience of trust, which is a fundamental commitment — whether you feel you can be trusted, whether you can trust the people you work with, and so on. If you have very short-term, superficial relations with people, you are never going to develop trust."

"Today," Sennett tells us in his book, "a young American with at least two years of college can expect to change job at least 11 times in the course of working, and change his or her skill base at least three times during those 40 years of labour."

He begins his essay with an interview with Rico, a man who knows all about downsizing, company "re-engineering", teamwork, and short contracts. Rico and his wife are the "very acme of an adaptable, mutually supportive couple", but both "often fear that they are on the edge of losing control over their lives" in a world where there is only short-term work and short-term profits.

Rico's experiences of changing jobs and becoming a consultant where he has no fixed role and never really belongs to a company have "set his inner and emotional life adrift". He is haunted by a sense that he cannot provide his children with the ethical discipline that his parents instilled in him. Rico's working life, with its constant changes, doesn't provide his children with examples of values such as loyalty, trust, and service. "You can't imagine how stupid I feel," Rico told Sennett, "when I talk to my kids about commitment. It's an abstract virtue to them; they don't see it anywhere."

For Sennett, Rico is an Everyman whose dilemmas show how "short-term capitalism threatens to corrode his character, particularly those qualities of character which bind human beings to one another and furnishes each with a sense of sustainable self... The flexible behaviour which has brought him success is weakening his own character in ways for which there exists no practical remedy."

Sennett's book is already a best-seller in Germany, but it has yet to appear in the United States. How will his fellow Americans respond to being told that their character is being eroded? They will either find it shocking, or read it like it's something from Mars. Until about six months ago our unemployment was very low. Now unemployment is rising and it hasn't proved possible to shield the American system from the crisis in the Far East.

But, far from their character being corroded, don't downsized workers tell themselves, "Look, I'm the brave one. I'm the one who's changed all these jobs and I'm still out there fighting?"

"I don't actually think that is how people feel," says Sennett. "What happens is that there is never a discussion about failure. That's what is so strange. It is a kind of secret that Americans harbour to themselves. When people lose their job they treat it as a kind of personal shame. When people tell me 'I'm a consultant' a little light goes on. Ah, they've been sacked. But that is the problem; it is so ferociously a culture dedicated to success that there's a public silence about failure."

Few realise that the capitalism of flexible working means that most workers are losers. About 15-18 per cent of workers will find that their first five years in a company rewards them with rapid upward mobility. A similar percentage will experience rapid downward mobility; while the rest will find that their wages gradually fall.

Companies move to flexible methods of working because they are trying to increase their short-term profits. American management increasingly rewards executives with stock options, so their pay packet is dependent on the stock market prices. "You have to produce results within an ever shorter period of time. So that's what drives the system," says Sennett. The long-term damage to the company will probably be apparent to everyone by year four, but by then the executives who "re-engineered" the company will have moved on. The long-term cost will be paid by those who were loyal.

The propaganda for downsizing and re-engineering has been so successful that most people assume it makes good economic sense. It does not. In the early 1990s, reports Sennett, the American Management Association and the Wyatt Companies conducted studies of firms which had seriously downsized. They found that companies that repeated downsizings produced "lower profits and declining worker

productivity". The same study found that less than half the companies achieved the savings they had planned, fewer than one-third increased profitability, and less than a quarter increased their productivity. To many people this is intuitively obvious: who works well if they are constantly worried about being shown the door?

Sennett's willingness to confront failure in people's lives and his feeling that Europeans are more sympathetic to his concerns than fellow Americans, puts him in the company of Arthur Miller, author of *Death of a Salesman*. Sennett and Miller have talked about *The Corrosion of Character*. "His take," says Sennett, "is that the great tragedy of the United States is that we never had a proper socialist movement. I keep telling him that it is in the culture that we never had one. To him it's a political event — his generation blew it."

Sennett finds it extraordinary how many people have swallowed the propaganda about flexibility and turbo-capitalism. "That's one thing that my book is bad about. I didn't make it clear that, in my experience, these are issues that don't become obvious to people until they have been in the labour market for 10 to 15 years. Young people grew up under Thatcher and Reagan, when they were made the promise that everybody would be a winner. Those young people won't find that five years from now."

It is perfectly possible, Sennett believes, for us to shift from an economy obsessed with the short term to one that believes in the long term. "This is not beyond the mind of man, once you make the decision that what you are running is a business is something in which you are ruining other people's lives."

As it is, many people applaud what you are running in a business is something in which you are ruining other people's lives.

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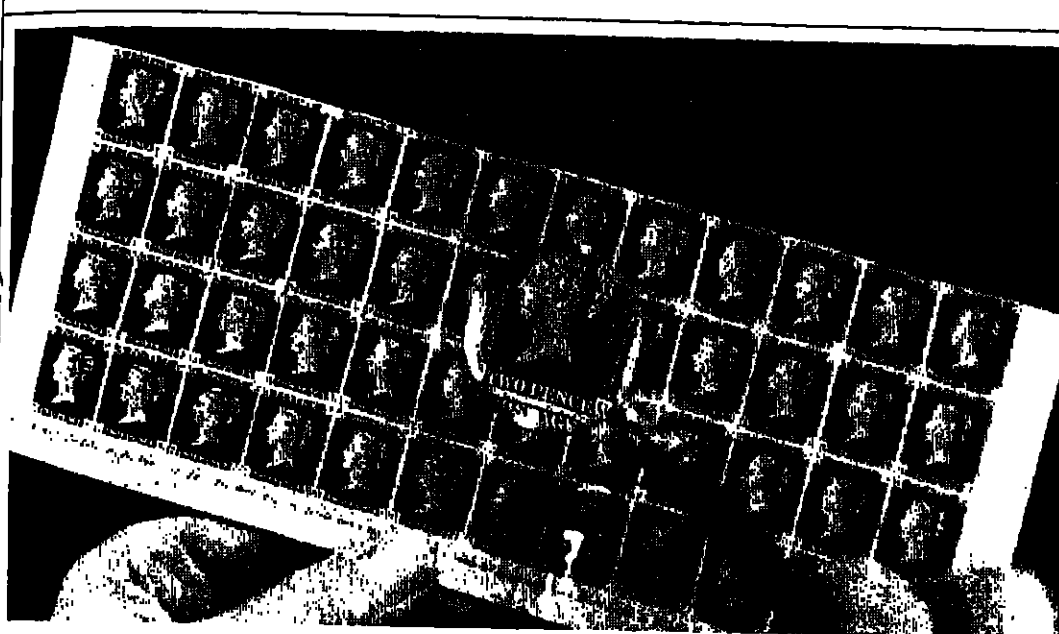
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£2m set puts Penny Black in the shade

THE world's most valuable set of stamps, discovered by chance in an old writing set, is to go on sale in London — priced at £2.75 million, writes *Amelia Gentleman*.

Former RAF serviceman Alexander Martin found the 48 two-pence stamps in mint condition, rolled in a leather writing set at Dalkeith Palace near Edinburgh when he was compiling an inventory of the palace contents for the Duke of Buccleuch in 1945. Described as "probably the

most important philatelic item in the world", the stamps, printed in 1840, were among the first issued. They are thought to have been bought by Walter Francis, 5th Duke of Buccleuch for use on the household mail and were then forgotten for a century.

The sheet is still coated with a layer of gum and retains its margins, printed with the words: "Place labels above the address and towards the right hand side of the letter." The first 2d blues were issued on May 6, 1840,

the same day as the Penny Black. The blues are rarer because they were produced for only one year. A single two-penny blue in mint condition is worth about £5,000, but the Buccleuch set is much more valuable because there are so many and they retain the original margin and gum. The stamps have been owned by three different collectors since being discovered, but are now to be sold on the open market by London specialists Spink.

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE BEVATTE

Notes & Queries Joseph Harker

FOLLOWING the break-up of the USSR, which country now has the largest empire?

ANDREW Rice's answer is unsatisfactory (October 4). Empire is defined as the domination of one state over others. The largest today is obviously that of the United States. Consider its power and influence over the North and South American continents as well as the Caribbean, excluding Cuba. In the Pacific area one can add the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and Australia. Japan has a US garrison. In the Middle East: Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt. As for Europe, US control is sometimes shaky, but certainly the UK and Italy can rarely act independently. — *V/S Petheram, Buckfastleigh, Devon*

IF I WERE given a loaded revolver and diplomatic immunity, would it be all right to go and shoot General Pinochet?

THAT depends on whether Pinochet is correct in his belief that capital punishment and lynch law are morally justifiable. — *Michael Chirelli, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire*

HAS A fire station ever burned down?

IN JANUARY 1994, there were about 800 simultaneous bush fires on the east coast of New South Wales. The raging inferno at the southern edge of Sydney destroyed all of Royal National Park's 15,000 hectares in one or two days. We stood by helplessly as the fire consumed everything in its path (except people, thankfully).

It also destroyed the park's large workshop — vehicles, tools, storage

sheds, a dozen gas cylinders that exploded dangerously and spectacularly at random intervals. Inexplicably, and somewhat fortunately, the only part of the workshop which escaped the fire was the fire equipment shed. — *Brian Leahy, Hurstville, NSW, Australia*

THE fire station in Apia, Samoa, burned down completely a few years ago. The station had been a very old wooden building on the sea front. After the fire, the engine had to sit out on the concrete base of the old building for months until a new concrete building was built with Australian aid. — *Bob Macfarlane, Auckland, New Zealand*

OUR village station was badly damaged by fire a few years ago. I believe there were firemen there when it started, and one of them asked a neighbour to use her phone to call the fire brigade. — *David Holmes, Yatton, Bristol*

UPON arriving in Uganda for the first time in 1993, I was most impressed and struck by the sight of the fire station on the edge of Kampala. Several days later when passing the same site, it was in cinders. — *Danny Coyne, Montpellier, France*

WHAT is the term for getting the lyrics to songs wrong?

AS A young secretary armed with a first-class shorthand/typing diploma from London, my first job in Australia was working for a Yorkshire man who dictated technical reports with his teeth firmly clenched round the stem of his pipe. He nearly swallowed it whole when he read my typed offering of "wild steam-coated water clouds" (mild steel-coated autoclaves) — and I

soon got promoted to higher duties. — *Winnie Dwyer, Fremantle, Western Australia*

AS A CHILD I was convinced each Christmas that "the little Maltese lads down his sweet head". — *Terry Siederer, Stockholm, Sweden*

WHY are rings (paedophile, drug) nasty, but circles (family, friends) nice?

AVICIOUS circle is an obvious exception but I'm not clear into which camp a fairy ring would fall. — *Colin Armstrong, Preston, Lancashire*

Any answers?

IF LIGHT from stars takes so long to reach us, and we see the stars as they were millions of years ago, how can we tell that they weren't extinguished long ago? — *Robin Corbett, London*

IF A government were elected which put the interests of people ahead of the interests of business, how would it be prevented from governing? — *Steve Peake, Brighton*

BEFORE global warming rose to the top of the environmental agenda, acid rain was often in the news. Has it got better or worse, or is it now the least of our worries? — *SJ Naylor, Poole, Dorset*

Answers should be e-mailed to weekly@guardian.co.uk, faxed to 0171-44171-242-0985, or posted to The Guardian Weekly, 75 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3HQ. The Notes & Queries website is at <http://nq.guardian.co.uk/>

Letter from West Cameroon Robert Lacville

White warning

WE ENDED our meeting with a ritual glass of raffia palm wine, not forgetting to splash a bit on the red earth out of respect for the ancestors. "It's to ask permission," the Elder explained.

The sap was tapped last night, so the wine had not had time to turn sour. Some of the villagers took advantage of the party to drink three glasses. Across the valley from where I was standing above the crop of taro roots and cassava, a lush hillside of coffee bushes and banana trees swept down to the fish ponds. The peasants' co-operative here has installed an integrated farming system to conserve soil and energy. The maize feeds men and pigs; the pigs' urine stimulates plankton to feed the tilapia in the lucrative fish farm, where the baby tilapia feed the catfish. Mud from the ponds enriches rows of green beans and cassava, which have been carved around the hillside between rows of trees. The trees stabilise the soil and reduce erosion, and "they provide poles for the climbing beans", Kameni points out enthusiastically. He is the leader of this ecological success story, and tells me proudly that "it is so successful that many people come to see us. The UNDP helps us. The BBC sent a crew to make a film for television."

Kameni has a messianic edge, making him attractive and vulnerable. As I was leaving I held his hand: "What you have achieved here is wonderful. But it is still young and small and weak. When you have repented this integrated system with other peasant farmers, you will have more than one valley to show us. Then you will be strong. Until then, you should try to refuse the offers from your visitors, when they invite you to conferences and seminars. A BBC film is good; but one is enough. Your big brother offers you this one piece of advice: don't let the white people suck you dry."

Bopta, my Cameroonian research colleague chuckled: "Good advice! Small brother would do well to listen carefully." Kameni was bemused: "It is true that I am receiving many invitations. Many people have asked me to visit them."

"You have help from the UNDP and advice from the NGO SAILD: that is enough. The rest you and your partners will achieve through hard work, with the help of the Almighty. But you will receive invitations from all over the world: first from Yaoundé, and then perhaps Lomé. Then the Canadians and

Americans will invite you to their seminars, and then the Europeans will arrive with air tickets. Somebody will write a Master's thesis about your work; but it is not you who will receive the qualification. Everybody will applaud you. And when you come home, the fish will be dead and the ponds will be dry. Then the white diplomats and foreign NGOs will forget you. You will be left with nothing but memories, and a bitter heart."

Now Kameni was listening hard. Bopta said: "Think of a beautiful young woman. Every man wants to go with her, but she must say 'No! If she says 'Yes' only once, then she will go twice and three times, and then no serious man will ever speak to her again. Her reputation will be gone. She will be an empty shell. That is how the foreign NGOs behave to peasant associations and pioneering farmers. When you are at their seminars, remember that you are only their puppet, and the foreigners are pulling your strings."

LIKE BOPTA, I'm not impressed with foreign NGOs in Africa, with their small projects and high overhead costs. I once told a United States conference: "Northern NGOs and development diplomats are very promiscuous. They get aroused every time they see a well-organised group of African farmers. Success is sexy. You all want to jump into bed with a success story, but you refuse the idea of marriage. Marriage implies a long-term partnership, where the partners share their ups and downs. But you don't want marriage; you only want to jump into bed with Africans, then move on to other pastures when it suits you."

The stunned silence in that American conference room was broken by a few chuckles from people who have seen the situation repeated too often. A good farmers' leader becomes "flavour of the month". While he travels to other people's conferences, the crops die and his fellow farmers become alienated through suspicion or jealousy.

If Kameni can resist the lure of the foreigners, he will avoid this, and his association will prosper. They may then become strong enough to demand better roads and to limit the arbitrary power of corrupt officials. Then they will be able to organise their own conferences. I hope Kameni will be able to resist the enticements of white men; if not, they will suck him dry.

A Country Diary

Vernon Mullen

OTTAWA, Canada: Surrounded by trains and traffic near our home, a narrow, scrubby swamp provides a haven of peace for birds and my early morning walks. Over the last nine years I have identified 109 species in the area; almost half are summer residents and the rest migrants and occasionalists. During late summer I have been watching still-spotted young American robins (*Turdus migratorius*), along with cedar waxwings and cardinals gobbling the ripening wild grapes. When I came to Ottawa 20 years ago, cardinals were rare;

now they are common. One male attacks its reflection in a neighbour's window all winter. My first autumn migrants were white-throated sparrows and rose-breasted grosbeaks, who fed on juicy, glossy-buckthorn berries, hanging heavily from every branch. For two minutes I watched a tiny warbler preening itself in a beam of sunlight, the first time I had seen a male of this species sitting still for more than three seconds. With its dashing white mask and a flashy, yellow scarf across its neck, it deserves to be called the Highwayman — a more romantic name than Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*).

John Co. 116

Snap judgments

PHOTOGRAPHY
Chris Arnot

VANLEY BURKE looks happy, as well he might. We are in Birmingham's elegant Museum and Art Gallery, surrounded by works by some of the giants of photography. To our left is Robert Howlett's portrait of a slouching Isambard Kingdom Brunel — a slightly different pose from the famous version in the Victoria & Albert Museum.

To our right is one of Bill Brandt's studies of slum life in 1930s and 1940s Birmingham. At one end of the room is Roger Fenton's 1857 picture of the west front of Peterborough Cathedral, its remarkable tonal values undimmed by age. At the other are Mrs Patrick Campbell, Mrs William Morris and a haunting shot of Tennyson's niece, Agnes Weld, by Julia Margaret Cameron, one of the greatest portrait photographers of the 19th century.

Yet the biggest frame in the room by far contains Vanley Burke's picture of African Liberation Day in Handsworth Park. It was taken in 1979, not a good year for race relations. The National Front was in full rant and, beneath Afro haircuts and hats (woolly and pork pie), you can see the tension on the beautifully lit faces in the crowd. Every eye is black. Every eye is either focused on the stage or glancing furtively to the side, as though expecting some kind of attack.

"I was on the stage with speakers from the ANC and Swapo," Burke recalls. "I didn't want the responsibility of taking them in case the pictures fell into the wrong hands. So I concentrated on the crowd." Burke is 47 and has been taking photo-

graphs since he arrived in Birmingham from Jamaica in 1965, clutching a Box Brownie. Despite being awarded the Kodak Bursary in 1979, he has had more recognition in New York and Johannesburg than in London.

At least Birmingham has recognised his talent. Much of Burke's work features in the city's vast archive. Not that the collection has had much of a show until now. More than 2 million prints and negatives have hitherto been hidden away in the Central Library. To put that in context, the V&A has a mere 300,000.

At last some space has been cleared in the Museum and Art Gallery for an exhibition called, appropriately enough, *Coming To Light* (until January 3). Some of the gallery's French Impressionists have temporarily given way to an eclectic exhibition spanning 150 years of camera-work.

"It was always my intention to bring to the public's attention the scale, diversity and significance of the collection in Birmingham," says the library's head of photography, Peter James. Easier said than done when the space finally becomes available and you have 2 million photos to choose from, but room for only 100.

"I wanted to bring out the historical range, from the 1840s to stuff we've commissioned lately, and to show a variety of photographic processes in terms of colour, tone and finish. The history of photography in Birmingham has been largely overlooked in the standard works."

The city's first exhibition was staged at the long-deceased Hen and Chickens hotel 141 years ago, and James has followed a roughly



Stephen... one of many Handsworth self-portraits taken in 1979

similar structure. So there are four sections: Architectural, Landscapes, Portraits and Commercial. But within each of these divisions are some clever juxtapositions.

Fortitude, Mark Oliver Dell's 1953 photo of ribbed stonework inside Salisbury Cathedral, sits side by side with Keith Burnett's 1993

picture of a ribbed metal construction languishing under the concrete fretwork of Spaghetti Junction.

Nearby, a tiny figure stands dwarfed on the balcony of the sensationally ornate Palace of Cardinal Mendoza. Charles Clifford's 1856 photograph is deliberately positioned next to Dell and H. L. Wainwright's

starkly modernist block of flats in Streatham, London, 1936. Another century, another set of balconies.

These intriguing contrasts are woven though the exhibition. Just above William Smedley Aston's formal 1906 portrait of the actress Mrs Patrick Campbell is the mobile face of an Afro-Caribbean youth called Stephen, grinning hugely and pointing at the camera.

His was one of many Handsworth Self-Portraits in 1979. Derek Blanton, Brian Homer and John Reardon (later the picture editor of the Observer) wanted to explore new ways of encouraging a community to represent itself through photography. They set up a stall and invited passers-by to take their own pictures using a long cable release. More than 500 took part.

Another section offers the chance to compare and contrast Bill Brandt's staged realism with Larry Herman's more spontaneous style of social-documentary photography. Brandt's picture of a family in a Birmingham slum in 1939 is called *Evening Meal*, although it was taken in the afternoon with the curtains drawn and every member of the family carefully posed.

Herman is an American who came to England in 1968 and settled in Sheffield. He has spent the past five years documenting ethnic-minority communities throughout Britain.

"One Friday night someone came out of the mosque and told me to get into his car. He took me to this illegal fowl auction in an old factory. They were selling live birds for *halal* meat. The place was packed, but nobody took any notice of me. I just stood there in one spot, snapping away with a Leica."

One result is on show here — a duck with a particularly long and vulnerable neck being plucked from a cage by the auctioneer. It's a mesmerising image of another England most know nothing about.

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The social ascent of a hungry heroine

TELEVISION
Nancy Banks-Smith

VANITY FAIR (BBC1) is as good as you get. Unlike its heroine, of course.

Becky Sharp (the vivid Natasha Little) leaves Miss Pinkerton's Academy for Young Ladies, having mischievously taught her class to say "Kiss my arse!" in French (a *jeu d'esprit* by Andrew Davies, the screenwriter), and starts her social climb. She is a clever little monkey. The higher a monkey climbs, the more you see its bottom, and this is true of Becky, too.

For Jos Sedley (touchingly played by Jeremy Swift), who so nearly proposes to Becky in Vauxhall Gardens, is a succulent prey who gets away. At first Vauxhall is a raucous, toothless, hawdy Cruikshank cartoon. Then, as Jos and Becky stroll together, black against the blowing torches, it is an exquisite silhouette. Sometimes just the look of the thing, directed by Marc Munden and photographed by Oliver Curtis, can take your breath away.

Having missed her unpractised pounce on a porker, Becky now has her eye on a fine, young buck. A girl must eat. When you consider the opportunities open to a penniless, clever young woman in those days, your skin crawls. They are written on gravestones.

Thackeray's mother thought *Vanity Fair* revolting, so that's a recommendation. It is also enchanting.

Sharp was followed by another tenacious climber, Norman Ornall (BBC1), a Tory politician. Norman is a powerful jet, who rises by his own power of jet propulsion.

Harry Enfield played Norman and a wide circle of candid colleagues. Feel free to pick your favourites. I was particularly tickled by Dame Shirley Maes, all hurricane hair and exploding toasters, and Randy Alan Swagg, lounging in



Natasha Little as Becky Sharp in the BBC adaptation of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*

his library like a lizard, and offer than a duck in the Gull.

Norman is a composite, like a trades union resolution. He force-feeds his daughter dog food, takes bribes from Al Bung, leaves his wife for a topos typist. As little John Selwyn Swott, who can barely see over the bottom of the screen, says: "It was nothing less than a deep personal tragedy for him... Heh... heh... I'm sorry, I'll have to do that again."

This was Craig Brown's debut as a screen writer and good fun too, if a little out of date. Labour are already shaping up nicely for a show of their own. *Taggart* (ITV) is at its happiest when it puts you off your food. A

Long Time Dead was about organ transplants, after which even the detectives didn't fancy a nice fry-up. I do feel the Crawford Hotel was in need of a visit from a frank restaurant critic. The chef and sous-chef were slain in swift succession. The waiters were mostly unconscious, having their kidneys harvested. And there was a large selection of bottled eyeballs in the cold store.

Men and Their Sheds (Channel 4) was one of those tiny treats that tend to get trampled on. Apparently Australian blokes are often found at the bottom of the garden, like fairies.

Sometimes the shed seems a gentle anteroom to death. Geoff stays there until he falls asleep in

front of the dying fire, his dreaming dog on his knee. Mrs Geoff phones — these sheds are well equipped — to check he is still breathing.

Shed men are not trying to avoid female society. There is often something described as "she" in the shed. Geoff's dog, Lady, Mitch's motorbike.

Mitch was a bloke with a beard and a beer. He said: "There's a few women in my past that called themselves shed widows. I was always in here, mucking around with this, mucking around with that. When the TV came in, one of them left me. Couldn't take it. It wasn't even my TV." He pondered the problem. "I think she wanted to go for other reasons." Get away.

The ants in angst

CINEMA
Gaby Wood

WHEN an ant is lying on a couch and speaking about its troubled childhood in the voice of Woody Allen, anthropomorphism must have reached its limit. *Antz*, the first in DreamWorks's project to make computer-animated films for adults, sets its good-humoured parable in a place where the cult of the individual is at its most improbable: Central Park.

The voices for these creatures are provided by a fantastic cast, including Woody Allen, who plays Z, the disgruntled weakling worker who questions everything. He falls for Princess Hala (Sharon Stone), and swaps places with his soldier friend Weaver (Sylvester Stallone) in order to be near her. He gets sent into battle, becomes an unwitting hero and finds himself on a quest for "insectopia" with the spillo princess.

Insectopia turns out to be a trash can. The sugar on a discarded doughnut acts as a sand-pit and a rollercoaster ride is provided by a worm winding in and out of an apple. Meanwhile, back at the colony, the dictatorial General Mandible (Gene Hackman) is out to "purify the colony" of its "weak element". The ants are following Z's example and planting the seeds of revolution in each other's minds. "Now," they announce, "the workers control the means of production!"

This entertaining story of a rebel ant is a kind of capitalist anthem with socialist words. *Antz* is, in its own description, "your basic boy meets girl, boy likes girl, boy changes underlying social order story".

In *Snake Eyes*, Nic Cage plays Rick Santoro, King of Atlantic City. He's a fast-talking, over-heated, corrupt and charming cop, with all the razzle-dazzle of his native town — a gold mobile phone, a wife and a girlfriend.

Everybody loves Santoro. But on the night of a boxing match he gets caught in the middle of a conspiracy. The US Secretary of Defence is assassinated, at a time when Santoro's old friend Kevin Dunne is supposed to protect him.

For the sake of his buddy, Santoro puts himself on the case. Loyalty, he jokes, is his only vice. All of this happens during the stunning opening sequence of Brian De Palma's film. The first 20 minutes is filmed in a single tracking shot, following Santoro on his winding, wily way around the boxing arena.

Cage's energy is unstopable, and he has created in Santoro an engrossing anti-hero — a character who is clearly the good guy, but unrepentant about his dodgy deals. As Santoro investigates, he hears and we see the story from different points of view: the other sides to the initial shot that followed only him. He pieces it together faithfully and despite himself, and turns out to be a better cop than anyone had bargained for.

Sounds escape from BBC dungeons

CLASSICAL CDs
Andrew Clements

ALREADY this year the record industry's countdown to the millennium has produced Great Pianists Of The Century from Philips, and Great Recordings Of The Century from EMI; now we have Great Performers Of The 20th Century in a series modestly called BBC Legends.

Whatever one thinks of the morality of a public-service broadcaster exploiting one of its most important assets purely for profit there are plentiful reasons to be grateful that some of the treasures which have languished unheard in the BBC's archives for far too long will finally be brought into circulation.

The best of the BBC Legends

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BBC Chorus/Boyd Neel/Enescu (BBC 4008-7) (2CDs) £17.99
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Over the next three years, 65 discs will be issued in the series. The first 10 span almost 30 years of broadcasting, from a studio recording of Bach's B minor Mass conducted by the Romanian George Enescu (with a line-up of soloists that included not only the superb French soprano Suzanne Danco and the tenor Peter Pears at the height of his expressive powers, but also Kathleen Ferrier just two years before her death), to the most recent, Sviatoslav Richter's 1979 Schubert recital from the Royal Festival Hall.

There are no real duds in this initial batch; almost all of them contain something worthwhile. Fans of particular performers will seize upon works that their idols never recorded commercially. Constantin Silvestri, underrated nowadays,

turns in a tautly dramatic 1963 account of the Manfred Symphony. Rudolf Kempe provides a reminder of what a great Brahms conductor he was with the Fourth Symphony from his years as the BBC Symphony's chief conductor, while admirers of John Barbirolli in Mahler will snap up his 1969 account of the Third Symphony from the Free Trade Hall in Manchester. But the Mahler performance here of authentically historic stature is Jascha Horenstein's Eighth. This performance from the Albert Hall in 1959 was one of the sparks that kindled the Mahler revival in the sixties. Horenstein seems to be forging a tradition of performing this gargantuan piece singlehanded; everything he does has conviction and an effortless breadth and shape.

The Brahms Piano Quintet from 1974 catches both Clifford Curzon and the Amadeus Quartet in fiery, unbuttoned form, taking risks in the concert hall that they would not have been countenanced in the antiseptic conditions of the recording studio; Schubert's Trout Quintet has more mellowness and repose, yet everything about it is shaped with perfect poetry. And Richter's accounts of three early Schubert sonatas, with the first of the Moments Musicaux added as an encore, is quite beyond criticism. Like the Horenstein, it's a disc that deserves legendary status.

If you would like to order any of these CDs (p&p £1) contact CultureShop, see ad on page 32

A slice of Salome's passion

CONCERT
Tim Ashley

THE role of Salome, Strauss's necrophiliac nymphet, is one of the most gruelling challenges a soprano can face. The composer famously remarked that he envisioned "a 16-year-old with the voice of an Isolde", and the requisite combination of vocal prowess, youthful sensuousness of timbre and psychological subtlety has eluded all but a few.

The Danish soprano Inge Nielsen, who is well on the way to becoming one of the role's more formidable interpreters, turned in an electrifying performance of the final scene at the end of a Beethoven/Strauss concert, conducted by her compatriot Michael Schonwandt, at the Royal Festival Hall at London's South Bank Centre.

Her voice isn't colossal — though it soars easily above the stage (there were some blazingly beautiful top notes) — but it has a tingly lower register and a penetrating quality that cuts through Strauss's orchestration at its densest. Her characterisation is terrifying. She looks at once alluring and baleful in a blood-red dress.

The text is initially laced with a savage, antimilitaristic irony that gradually gives way to heart-stopping nostalgia and raptur-

ous lyricism as she contemplates Jochanaan's tangled beauty. The ending, when she draws the words in sated, erotic exhaustion, made me squirm in my seat.

This is great singing, and we urgently need to hear her in the opera in its entirety. We also need to hear more of Schonwandt, too, for he's an excellent Straussian, sparing you none of the music's emotional intensity and relishing in its opulent tone colouring and shivery dissonances.

The extract from *Salome* was preceded by Tod Und Verdringung, the trickiest of Strauss's tone-poems, considered a shocker in its day, though now emerging as perhaps too self-consciously Wagnerian. There was real elation and terror in the opening sections, while the closing peroration seemed for once neither a moment too long nor overblown. Schonwandt is good at Beethoven as well, and gave us an exhilarating performance of the Fourth Symphony that was dense and breezy, jubilant and thoughtful.

The Philharmonia were on superlative form for him, with exquisitely placed woodwind solos threading their way through Beethoven's symphony, and lustrious, sensual brass and strings illuminating every facet of Strauss's music.

Shooting blunt arrows at the Labour balloon

THEATRE
Michael Billington

THERE is only one thing left-wing dramatists hate more than a Tory government. That, of course, is a Labour government. And Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton have wasted no time in penning a flailing and unfocused satire on the Blair administration for failing to deliver the red-blooded socialism it never actually promised: after only 18 months, their ejaculations seem somewhat premature.

Satire demands moral rage on the part of its practitioners and a visible corruption in its target. In *Ugly Rumours* at London's Tricycle Theatre you feel Ali and Brenton are simply registering their pique at New Labour's failure to live up to their personal dreams. And although they score one or two definite bull's-eyes — such as Labour's humiliating subservience to Rupert Murdoch and to Bill Clinton's foreign policy — for the most part you feel it is still too early to accuse the Government of some kind of grand betrayal.

The spine of their argument is an assumed personal and ideological hostility between Tony Blair and his Chancellor, Gordon Brown. Tony Boy, as he is here called, is seen as a

smarmy airhead at the mercy of his spin-doctor, Polly Mendacity. Brown, dubbed Gordon Macduff and spun by one Charlie Ferrago, becomes the possible keeper of the flame of old-fashioned socialism who holds secret conclaves with union leaders and Lionel Jospin, but is eventually outflanked and driven into Scottish exile.

Whatever divisions there may be between Blair and Brown, they hardly warrant the Shakespearean parallels here invoked. And, as if recognising that, Ali and Brenton change tack and accuse Blair of a grand plan to displace with parliamentary government altogether and govern purely through focus groups and an annual democracy day in the Dome. Given Labour's plans for devolution, elected mayors and Lords reform, it seems a bit rich to accuse them of a dislike of the democratic system.

Occasionally Ali and Brenton's barbs hit home. The vision of Murdoch as a man who simply wants to use Britain as a base to buy Europe is also horribly plausible. And Blair's telephonic subservience to a trigger-happy Clinton and nervous question of "Do you mind telling me where your targets are?" is too close to truth for comfort.

But much of the writing smacks of wild desperation and has none of the

grand grotesquerie of a play such as Brenton and David Hare's *Pravda*. One is left to enjoy such modest pleasures as Sylvia Sym's double impersonation of a batty Thatcher haunting the Downing Street cellars and of a Queen terrified of the idea of renaissance Princess Dianasp being sighted like so many reborn Elvises. Neil Mullarky endows Blair with a cipher-like charm while Gordon Kennedy plays Brown as a ruggedly tortured soul. But there is something provisional and premature about this satire: you feel the time to really go for the jugular will be after Labour has grown. If it does, bloated and diseased with power.

I was cagey about Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* when I saw it in the Cottesloe. But, seeing it again at London's Theatre Royal, I was profoundly moved. Richard Eyre's fine, much-recast production and Stoppard's densely allusive text have more room to breathe in the larger space.

It is also possible to see more clearly what this dream-like evocation of the life of A E Housman is really about. At its heart lies a melancholic, meditative reflection on the mystery of existence. In the great, first-act scene where the dead A E H commutes with his younger self, he tells him it is hopeless to seek "the lost autograph copy of

life's meaning which we might recover from the corruptions that have made it nonsense". But the supreme irony is that while the older man urges the younger to pluck the fruit while there is still time, he is incapable of altering either events or his own character. He knows that he is doomed, by the repressions of his nature and the circumstances of late-Victorian England, to nurse a hopeless passion for his Oxford friend Moses Jackson.

But the art of the play lies in the way one idea bleeds into another. The notion expressed in his punning title. Does love really exist before its literary invention? And is love itself capable of endless inventiveness? Oscar Wilde, whose presence haunts the play, tells Housman, "Bosie is my creation, my poem." Equally, the exceptional Jackson becomes half of Housman's life and the source of his best poetry. Wilde and Housman are presented as diagonal opposites — the extrovert aesthete and the introverted scholar — yet both are strangely joined by their belief in the transfigurative power of love.

John Wood reveals both the transcendent nature of Housman's love of textual scholarship — exulting in the discovery of a misplaced comma in Catullus — and his pain at life's missed chances. When he says of Jackson "I would have died for you but I never had the luck", Wood seems to burn with emotional regret.

Joh 11:30 1:16



ILLUSTRATION: ANN HOBDAV

Past echoes of the steppes

Mark Cooper

AS YOU drive across the central portion of Hungary's Great Plain towards the medieval city of Debrecen it's difficult to believe that this thoroughly mechanised, modern agricultural environment — with its endless and sterile patchwork of maize or sunflower prairies — was once the main base for the cavalry hordes of Attila the Hun. It's only when you cross to the eastern bank of the River Tisza that the countryside yields any real clues to the region's extraordinarily deep and complicated past.

The Tisza itself, particularly its millennial power to bring flood and alluvial silts, is one of the principal factors behind the Great Plain's unrelieved flatness. But during the 16th and 17th centuries the river and its floodwaters were given new destructive licence when the region suffered decades of conflict between the Ottoman Turks and the Christian forces of Magyar and Habsburg nobles. These wars brought devastation to the area's once extensive forest and deep disorder to its settled patterns of agriculture.

In an era of political and environmental turmoil the floodplain of the Tisza became a pestilent swamp, a refuge of bandits and wolves, and

acquired the name *puszta* — meaning "abandoned" or "deserted" — by which it is still known today. However flood-control measures in the 19th century eventually gave new shape to this ancient landscape. Although the increased alkalinity of the soil left it fit only for the pasturing of livestock, the *puszta* acquired legendary status as a kind of Hungarian wild west where Magyar *gauchos* tended vast herds of the region's unique raksa sheep and grey cattle, with their spectral colours and long sweeping horns.

It is this avatar of the Great Plain's spirit that is preserved and celebrated in the Hortobágy National Park, which was created in 1973 and covers about 70,000 hectares. Today the flocks of raka, with their curly fleeces and corkscrew horns, have become barely more than tourist attractions, while the great herds of grey cattle, which once loomed through the summer heat-haze like a vast ghost on the steppe's horizon, have so dwindled that they've become the focus of European Union quotas for "nature conservation beef".

But the environmental importance of Hortobágy *puszta* is undiminished. In spring and autumn it hosts hundreds of thousands of migrant birds, and in summer it blooms with an endemic steppe

flora. The reedbeds and marshes support about as many breeding spoonbills as all of the Netherlands, more white storks than the whole of France, and twice as many bitterns as Britain. Rather than a desolate waste the *puszta* now summons images of one of the great wildlife landscapes in Europe.

At Angyalháza in the southern section of the park is one of the most intact stretches of the habitat remaining, and it gives a sense of the Hungarian steppe in its prime. But although this is a place of awesome character it's not one that yields readily to the photographer. Looking through the viewfinder you're confronted with a two-tone image sliced through the middle by a remote and featureless horizon.

You quickly realise that all the potency in this immense landscape lies not in any inherently dramatic features but in their total absence, and also in the vast sky-scapes above your head. The travel writer Patrick Leigh Fermor warns of the dangers in attempting to convey these breathtaking cloud panoramas, then goes on in typically sumptuous fashion to write of "ridiculous squadrons descending in slow motion to smouldering and sulphurous lagoons where baricams gradually collapse and fleets of burning turrets turn dark before sinking".

Chess Leonard Barden

JUDIT POLGAR hasn't been much in the news since Wijk aan Zee, where she was second to Vishy Anand. Polgar then took time off to iron out weaknesses in her game and return fresh at the US Open in Hawaii. Rest brought zest as she shared the title with 8/9, the first time a woman has taken this venerable event; while the VAM tournament in the Netherlands turned out even better.

Polgar destroyed her opponents in the first half of the double-rounder, winning impressively against Jan Timman, Tal Shaked and the great Boris Spassky (whom she defeated in a match in 1993). Polgar is just outside the top 10 GMs and has been held back as a major world title contender only by her poor results against Garry Kasparov, Anand and Vladimir Kramnik. When she was 10 years old this column forecast her as a future challenger to Kasparov, and it could still happen.

J Polgar v B Spassky

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 Nb8 10 d4 Nbd7 11 Nbd2 Bb7 Not falling for 11... Re8? 12 Be2? (12 Bx7+ the double oversight of their game in 1993).

12 Bc2 Re8 13 Nf1 exd4! Most GMs would keep the central stronghold intact by Bf8 or c5. 14 exd4 d5 15 c5 Ne4 16 N3d2 Nxd2 17 Bxd2 c5 18 Ne3 g6 19 Ng4 Bf8 20 dxc5 Bxc5 21 Nh6+ Kg7 22 Qd3 f6 23 e6 Nf8 24 b4 Bb6 25 e7! This sacrifice effectively gives White an extra rook around the BK. Black's a8 rook never moves. Rxe7 26 Rxe7+ Qxe7 27 Re1 Qd8 28 Ng4 Nd7 29 Qd4 Kf7 30 Qh6 Qg8 31 Qh4 Qh8 32 Nh6+ Kf8 33 Qg4 f5 34 Nxf5! Qf6 If gxf5 35 Bh6+ Kf7 36 Qxh5 Nf6 37 Qe6 mate.

35 Bg5 Qc3 36 Re2 Bc7 37 Ng3 Ne5 38 Qe6 Nf7 39 Be7+ Kg8 40 Nh5! pxf5 41 Bf6 Resigns. The threats Bc3, Qf5, Qe6+ and Bxh7+ are too much.

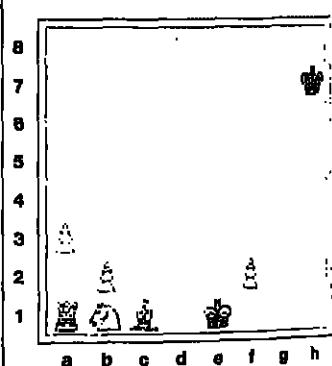
Harriet Hunt, the world girls U10 girls champion, won the second board bronze medal with 9/12 at the Elista Olympiad, the best result by any English player. Hunt is already the number two Western-born player after Sweden's Pia Cramling.

Michael Basman's UK Challenge, for which 35,000 children competed in their schools last year, is Britain's most successful event in encouraging girls to play chess.

The trio who won the youngest girls age groups in the 1998 Challenge have just gone on to win an open Surrey event, defeating all their boy rivals. Selina Khoo was the U8, Jessica Dodson the U9, and Sarah Hegarty the U10, each with 5/5.

Jessie Gilbert, the talented 11-year-old whom the British Chess Federation plans to omit from the World Girls U12 Rapid Championship in Paris this month, was girl co-champion (against rivals up to age 18) in the 1997 Challenge and runner-up in 1998.

No 2549



This week's puzzle is a helpmate by J. Gimmell (1995) where Black moves first, then both sides co-operate until White checkmates on his fourth turn. Expert readers of The Problemist found it quite hard.

No 2548: 1 Qxh8+ Ke7 2 Rd7 wins after Qxd7 3 Qxh8 (Black no longer has a mate threat) or Kxd7? Ne5+ Ke7 4 Qxb8+ Kxb8 5 Nxb6 and 6 Nxb8.

out his diamond stoppers, so the contract was made for a score of 750 to East-West.

That did not look promising for Rixi's team, but at the other table the auction developed like this:

South	West	North	East
Forrester	Friday	Lodge	Bird
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Dble	Rdble	Pass	2♥
3♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This auction looks even more bizarre than the one at Rixi's table, but the explanation is that Tony Forrester and Steve Lodge were playing a system in which North's opening pass showed the values for an opening bid. Bearing that in mind, Forrester had heard his opponents bid hearts and clubs, so he hoped that his side would have a fit in spades or diamonds. Hence his second-round takeout double, but his partner's hand failed dimly to live up to expectations. The penalty from three diamonds doubled was 800, so Rixi's team had won the board!

Bridge Zia Mahmood

THE Lederer Memorial Trophy took place this month at the Young Chelsea Bridge club in Earls Court. The event provides tremendous value for spectators, since the country's leading players compete against a wealth of international talent. The contest is unique in that it is a mixture of teams and pairs scoring.

My predecessor in these pages, the great Rixi Markus, featured in a bizarre deal from the 1986 Lederer. Her side contrived to double a contract of 3NT and, through force of circumstance, allowed it to make on the opening lead. Game all, dealer North (next column).

Rixi was North, Martin Hoffman South, and the England international Graham Kirby and John Armstrong occupied the West and East seats respectively. The bidding took this remarkable course:

South	West	North	East
Hoffman	Kirby	Rixi	Armstrong
1♠	2♣	1♥	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North
♦ Q3
♥ KJ876
♦ 73
♣ KQ98

West
♦ AK107
♥ 5
♦ AJ
♣ 1075432

East
♦ 854
♥ AQ942
♦ Q62
♣ A6

No, that isn't a misprint. Rixi was not going to be balked of her natural rebid by so trivial a matter as right-hand opponent making it first, so she and Kirby both bid two clubs. She also doubled Armstrong's jump to 3NT, which was based on the pious hope that, for once, Kirby would have his bidding. He was disappointed in that respect, but the good news was that following Rixi's insufficient bid, Armstrong was able under the rules to direct Martin Hoffman to lead a club. This allowed the declarer to set up the club suit before the defence could knock



America's most wanted... In 1958, policemen in Montgomery, Alabama, arrested King and his wife Coretta for 'loitering'. The arresting officers didn't know who King was. PHOTO: CHARLES MOORE

On the road to the promised land

James Urquhart

Dreamer
by Charles Johnson
Canongate 236pp £14.99

REVELATION can happen through shock. Charles Johnson's title ostensibly alludes to Dr Martin Luther King, on whose life this novel is based; but Dreamer goes beyond facts lifted from the minister's career. The novel floats with dreaming aspiration but is freighted, too, with the dreaming that cushions against reality, and is only understood on waking.

Dr King is in Lawndale, a cockroach-infested, ghettoised Chicago suburb, to conduct his campaign of non-violent civil disobedience. Fresh from civil rights triumphs in the South, he is stunned by the depth and divisiveness of hatred in a city simmering with riots and murder. This landscape may derive from the Book of Revelation, but Johnson's text is closer to

Bunyan's dream of the Pilgrim's Progress, as he focuses upon the spiritual crises of his four main characters.

Matthew Hishop ("as bland and undistinguished as a piece of furniture") introduces King to Chaym Smith, a man so physically similar to King that he had been persecuted as the minister himself. Reeling from the shock, King agrees to Bishop taking Smith home, to prepare him to be King's body double.

Smith asks uncomfortable questions. He is erudite, working-class, knows his Bible, has studied Zen in a Kyoto monastery, has served time, and earned his red badge in the Korean war. He espouses violence and, as middle-class, college-educated King's doppelgänger, asks the unthinkable: "You ever thought we might be second-class citizens because generally we are second-rate?" Bishop gains charisma through his psychological interment with Chaym. Chaym and

King, rarely meeting, apprehend deeper cores of identity through contemplation of each other's situation. The story of Cain — "the first revolutionary to defy favouritism and an unjust authority" — is embodied in Chaym's disenfranchised circumstance. He recognises the Doctor's terrible self-effacement in needing to become a conduit to God, but he cannot share in King's famous dream of the Promised Land.

Johnson never circumvents the danger inherent in King's struggles against white death threats, black envy and the FBI's continual harassment, but he writes luminously of the minister's spiritual striving through intolerable pressures. Like a skiff exploring history's more hidden currents, Johnson's poetic language drifts with care over the mulling currents of King's intellect, leaving in its wake a wonderful, prismatic novel, exhorting and testifying, but never preaching.

A century of scientific arrogance

Robin McKie

What Remains to be Discovered
by John Maddox
Macmillan 434pp £29

LET'S FACE IT, there is nothing to be a smart Alec. Just ask Stephen Hawking. He became a best-selling author largely because he named his book A Brief History of Time. Read this tome and you will know everything worth knowing, it implied.

And so it is with Sir John Maddox. Recently retired as editor-in-chief of Nature, Maddox has turned his research into a tome that appears to claim mastery of all scientific knowledge. The boundaries of these covers, its title suggests.

The idea is a daft one — as even Maddox admits. "What remains to be discovered is not, of course, the same as what will be discovered," he states. The truth, thank God, will be far stranger than we can currently imagine.

To illustrate this point, consider what might have been included in a 100-year-old version of Maddox's book. A Victorian attempt to predict future scientific discoveries would have merely noted there were some discrepancies in our understanding of heat radiation. Apart from that, everything would have seemed hunky-dory when it came to energy research.

Then, in 1900 in Berlin, Max Planck showed that energy, like atoms, was made up of discrete sub-units which he called quanta. This discovery triggered an intellectual revolution that ended with the creation of quantum physics, the uncertainty principle and the atom bomb. Only a historian empowered with the most acute hindsight could claim these ideas were foreseeable in the 19th century. In short, predicting the course of scientific enterprise is a dicey business.

Nor will things change in future — which would seem to render this work a rather pointless exercise. Fortunately, his thesis remains valid because Maddox is concerned not

with future outcome but with cataloguing current discoveries and in pinpointing where there are gaps or flaws.

That said, Maddox's survey of modern science is mastery, a catalogue that is comprehensive but never dull, illuminative but never repetitive, ranging across the universe from the Big Bang to the origin of life, and from computing to biotechnological research. He is neither alarmist about the future progress of science, or Whiggishly over-optimistic about its impact on humanity. This is a balanced, expert analysis.

Of course, it is also an extraordinarily arrogant work. Only someone who is utterly sure of his or her erudition and expertise would attempt to write an overview of an entire century of scientific discoveries and then point out all the bits that the scientists had not quite got right.

This is a master operator, a writer and polemicist resolutely sure of his talents, untroubled by self-doubt. And jolly good luck to him, too. Nothing succeeds like a smart Alec, after all.

Going for the throat

Elizabeth Young

Carpe Jugulum
by Terry Pratchett
Doubleday 286pp £16.99

TERRY PRATCHETT has finally achieved the status of a national institution as our foremost comic novelist. It would be worse than uncharitable to mutter, like the mother in the Louis MacNeice poem presented with her fifth baby, "Take it away; I'm through with overproduction". Yet, to the twisted soul of the bibliophile, it is never wholly easy to see a beloved author pass from cult status into mass cultural acceptance.

Having feasted rapturously and virtually in private, sometimes for years, on the work of writers such as Pratchett, Ruth Rendell, Don DeLillo or Alice Munro, one feels a pleasure when they are finally accorded their well-earned acclaim that is always tempered by a faint sense of loss. Ungraciously, the bibliophile starts seeking another gifted unknown to collect. But then bibliophilia is a pathological condition marked by covetousness, elitism and other undesirable, seriously psychopathic traits.

Carpe Jugulum is the second Discworld novel to come out this year, and the 23rd book in the best-selling series. Pratchett's great creation, the Disc, is a "world and mirror of worlds", a flat earth carried through the endless starry reaches of space on the back of a giant turtle. Sea pours endlessly over the rim of the Disc and at its icy centre is The Hub, where the gods live in a place called Dunman-teslin. Many of the books are set in the Disc's capital city, famously evoked in the quotation "A man who is tired of Ankh-Morpork is tired of ankle-deep slurry".

The various continents and cities of the Disc are always more than recognisable, despite some stunning rips in the space-time continuum: Ephra and Tsor approximate to classical Greece and Rome. Genua is strongly reminiscent of New Orleans. The desert kingdom of Djelibeybi is somehow overwhelmingly Egyptian, and the lost continent of Ptolemy brings immediately to mind Alan Coren's operatic epic Oedipus Bruce. ("Queen Glenda's me mum. I've only gone and married me flaming mummy!").

The Disc is peopled by, well, people — and by witches, wizards, trolls, assassins, werewolves, elves, dwarves and every other stock character from fantasy with certain species characteristics or abilities to practise magic.

The best-loved and most familiar characters pop up all over the Disc in the other books. Three of the strongest characters are witches — kindly, salacious Nanny Ogg, stately Granny Weatherwax, and the droopy, New Age feminist Magrat Garlick. ("When shall we three meet again? ... 'Well, I can do next Tuesday.'")

Despite outward appearances these cannot really be called fantasy novels, partly because Pratchett is too intent on undermining all the conventions of the genre and partly because they mirror so effectively the current concerns of our own society. For example, Men At Arms considers political correctness and equal opportunity employment (for trolls, werewolves and so on), while Moving Pictures features the corrupt growth and widespread influence of

Hollywood. Transposing such issues to another, wholly original, world is the creative equivalent of fuelling a huge blast-furnace single-handed.

The real delight of the Disc novels is the way in which Pratchett parodies and plays with all the tropes of literature and literary theory. Guards, Guards satirises the noir-type private-eye novel, while Witches Abroad considers narrative causality in fairy-tales. Wyrd Sisters loosely utilises the plot of Macbeth, while Lords And Ladies is based, more substantially, on A Midsummer Night's Dream, detouring to attack the current tyranny of style in society by way of parallel-worlds theory. Although lightly plotted, each novel is classically baggy with content ranging through anything from myth, fable, particle physics, tourism, canal-driving and religious wars to the prevalence of shopping malls.

Carpe Jugulum, which loosely translates as "Take the throat", follows the now inimitable Discworld formula. Aware that everyone knows exactly what to do when faced with a vampire, Pratchett proceeds to overturn our hoary certainties. Lancre is taken over by the vulgar, upstart mobile vampire family of the Count de Magpyre, attended by their unfaithful retainer Igor, a man of many parts — that is,



Pratchett's intent on undermining literary conventions

he doubles as a Frankenstein's monster. In aligning the witches to combat this new outrage, Pratchett finds Magrat, now married to King Verence, trying to combine her witching career with motherhood, having just produced Enderelda Margaret of Lancre. Pratchett also manages to deal with the myth of the phoenix, the nature of sin, Scottish tribal wars, the dilemmas of the contemporary Christian Church, the clichés of monster films and the increasingly complex psychology of Granny Weatherwax.

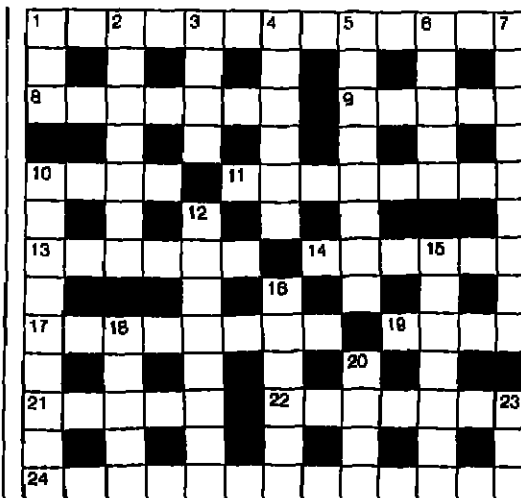
Pratchett's position as a leading comic novelist now seems as permanently assured as that of P G Wodehouse. His Discworld adheres closely to an established comic structure which allows him to comment on human society from a position of infinite flexibility.

Unlike many humorists his fundamental attitude is kindly rather than misanthropic; he is quietly, unobtrusively ethical, and consistently promotes ordinary decency; he is highly amusing without resort to crude stereotyping. All this, aligned to his turbo-charged imagination and heightened awareness of literature and literacy, suggest that he will remain an enduring, endearing presence in comic literature. As Granny Weatherwax says "Words is important".

Quick crossword no. 444

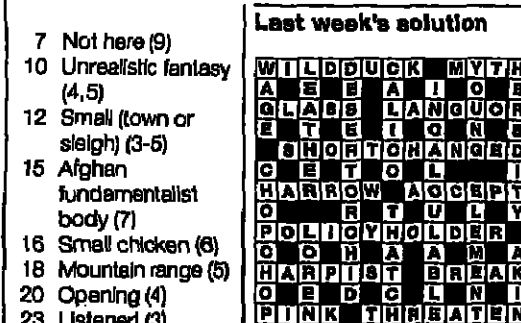
Across

- See lush coffee (anag) — quick light dish (6,7)
- Racing forecaster (7)
- Board game (5)
- Overtake — I don't know! (4)
- Become too full (3)
- Academic fiasco (6)
- Courage — drink! (6)
- Tie in race (4-4)
- Adhesive (4)
- Downy duck (5)
- Worry or bother (7)
- Captain of merchantman (6-7)



Down

- Domestic animal (3)
- Shown up (7)
- Badger's burrow (4)
- Contend (6)
- Weaker or less fancied
- contestant (3)
- Wild (if normal tame) (5)



Last week's solution

WILDOODK MYTH
A B E A I O E
O L A N G U O R
L T E I G K E
O R T O N A N G E D
O E T O L I
W A R R O W A C C E P T
O R T U L V
P O R T O Y H O L D E R
O O H A A R A
O U R I T H S I A K
O E D G L E N I
P I N K T H R E A T E N

هذا من الشعر

Tennis Paris Indoor Open

Pistol Pete beaten in Rusedski duel

Stephen Brierley

IN THIS city of extraordinary architectural and artistic marvels, the distinction of Greg Rusedski's straight-sets victory over Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in the Paris Indoor Open last Sunday is unlikely to be considered for much longer than a few days. But a marvel it certainly was.

"Without a doubt this was the biggest and best match of my career," said Rusedski, who won 6-4, 7-6, 6-3 in an hour and 44 minutes of sustained excellence. It was his first victory over the American in seven meetings, and it was no fluke. Sampras acknowledged as much.

Rusedski's win means Britain may for the first time have two players in the ATP Tour Finals in Hanover this month. Rusedski won \$400,000 and gained more than 500 world ranking points, including bonus points, taking him to 2,379, which is behind Tim Henman (2,427) but ahead of Yevgeny Kafelnikov (2,258). The Russian, beaten 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 by Rusedski in the semi-finals, has to win in Moscow and hope the two Britons lose in the first or second round in Stockholm.

The results in Paris have ensured that Slovakia's Karol Kucera has joined Sampras and Andre Agassi in Germany, together with the Spaniards Carlos Moya and Alex Corretja and Chile's Marcelo Rios.

Rusedski's victory stunned almost everybody. Sampras, the winner here last year, had been insisting all week that victory in Paris was an integral part of his crusade to keep the No 1 spot for a

record sixth successive year. The fact that the American battled through a back injury here, and then opted for a wild card in Stockholm, underlined the implacable nature of his quest. For this reason alone it seemed unlikely that Rusedski, for all his excellent previous form, would be able to balk the great man. But confound him he did, with a quality of play that two years ago would have seemed impossible.

Rusedski now appears to have the confidence to mix up the velocity of his shots and to find angles and moments of deftness that had previously seemed beyond him. Whether he can sustain such quality week in week out, and on all surfaces, only time will tell, but against Kafelnikov and Sampras he displayed rare composure and consistency.

Sampras suddenly hit trouble in the ninth game of the first set when a running forehand winner gave Rusedski a break point. Sampras immediately double-faulted. Rusedski, the British No 2, saved four break points on his serve at the opening of the second set but two huge forehands by the American paved the way to a 4-2 lead. Unaccountably, when serving for the set, Sampras played a shockingly loose game, including two double faults. Rusedski's eyes have never been brighter.

He needed no second offering of such gifts, won the tie-break with splendidly resolute play and polished off the third set in a rush for his first win in a Super 9 event, tournaments second only to the Grand Slams. It was an extraordinary performance, and who knows where it may propel him? He has the capacity for constant surprise.



Raising a racket... Rusedski signals his defeat of Sampras

New curves in Steffi's graph

STEFFI GRAF crowned a triumphant comeback in the Leipzig Open by beating Nathalie Tauziat in straight sets, in Sunday's final to win the tournament for the fifth time.

Graf, playing her first event since an operation on her right wrist which put her out for nearly two months, won 6-3, 6-4 in 83 minutes to record her 20th victory over this summer's Wimbledon finalist in as many encounters.

The former world No 1, who started in Leipzig as 22nd in the rankings, has now won all 25 matches she has played in this German event, where she also triumphed from 1990 to 1993. Tauziat, the second seed, earned five break

points in the opening game. But, cheered on by 5,000 partisan fans, Graf saved them all and went on to break the French player in the seventh game before claiming the first set.

The second set was close until Graf, relying on her powerful ground strokes and precise passing shots, managed the telling break in the final game to achieve the 105th tournament win of her career and her first since the Penn International in August.

In the quarter-finals of the tournament, Graf became the world's top women's prize-money earner. That win took her total to \$20,347,942 — \$3,000 more than Martina Navratilova's record.

Lara reprieve as SA tour goes ahead

David Hopps

BRIAN LARA and Carl Hooper were reinstated as West Indies' captain and vice-captain on Monday night after a week of intense negotiations finally salvaged a ground-breaking tour of South Africa that had been on the brink of cancellation.

The bitter stand-off over pay and conditions between the West Indies Cricket Board and Lara's rebel players, who had set up camp in a Heathrow hotel during a contractual dispute, ended when the squad boarded a flight to Johannesburg.

Lara and Hooper were unanimously sacked last week by an implacable West Indies Board, led by its autocratic president, the Jamaican lawyer Pat Rousseau, after they had sparked an impromptu strike by switching flights en route from Bangladesh to South Africa. But Rousseau on Monday night conveniently depicted the whole affair as a "misunderstanding".

He announced: "A settlement has been reached which will allow the tour of South Africa to go ahead. Lara and Hooper will be reinstated and no disciplinary action will be taken against any of the players."

The settlement, thrashed out after another exhausting round of talks at the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, salvaged West Indies' first Test series in the Republic since South Africa's readmission to international cricket six years ago and the staging of multiracial elections.

The tour could be saved only if all involved saved face, and the agreement, tirelessly brokered by Ali Bacher, chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, achieved just that.

Bacher, armed with letters of appeal to the West Indies players from President Mandela and his own conviction that the three-month tour would arouse a passion for the game among the black population, became exasperated as the dispute dragged on, and he took an increasingly central role. The talks involved Rousseau, the Jamaican captain Jimmy Adams, Barrie Gill, Lara's agent, and Collyer-Bristow, City solicitors.

Until Monday virtually every positive development had emanated from South Africa. The insistence of Edward Griffiths, head of South Africa's state television network, that only a West

strength West Indies side would be acceptable to sponsors and advertisers scotched any possibility that the West Indies board might refuse to negotiate and send a second-string squad.

So the tour has been saved, but the players displayed selfishness in putting an historic tour in jeopardy just to squeeze out a better financial deal.

England's Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash set a new record of 377 for a partnership by any touring team playing in Australia as the visitors battled out the final day at Adelaide Oval to force a draw against South Australia. The First Test began in Brisbane on November 20.

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

November 16 1998

Football Premiership: Arsenal 1 Everton 0

Arsenal upwardly mobile

Marin Thorpe at Highbury

ARSENAL's continued shyness in front of goal has not prevented the champions from gatecrashing the Premiership table, and last Sunday another trademark 1-0 victory lifted them into second place behind Aston Villa.

The goal that beat an unadventurous Everton came from the left foot of Nicolas Anelka, the fifth successive league game in which the Frenchman has scored. But, perversely, the feeling remains that Arsenal still need to sign a more consistent goalscorer to maintain their promising start.

They were lucky to be meeting an Everton side who came for a draw and never threatened to take advantage of Arsenal's lapses by scoring. Duncan Ferguson plopped one header on top of the bar and flashed another wide, but Arsenal carved out the bulk of the chances and fluffed all but one. This time it did not prove as costly as in the recent draw against Southampton and in Europe on three occasions. But it remains a problem.

If this sounds hard on Anelka, then that does not detract from the fact that his winner was another contender for Goal of the Season. But this is Anelka's problem: he is a scorer of great goals, not a great scorer of goals.

Arsenal's scoring record is striking in the wrong way. Out of 16 games in the Premiership and Europe this season they have failed to score in four, scored once in seven and twice in three. The 3-0 results against Manchester United and Newcastle are beginning to look like fantasies.

Better news for Arsenal is that their injury list is shortening. Marc Overmars as well as Anelka were back last Sunday, with Dennis Bergkamp on the bench. So there were only two differences from Arsenal's first-choice team, with Gilles Grimandi playing perhaps his best



United we stretch... Alan Shearer displays his balletic skills as he challenges Gary Neville. The match between Newcastle and Manchester ended goalless, enabling Arsenal to move up the table

game for the club in place of Tony Adams, and Fredrik Ljungberg filling in for Bergkamp.

Shaking off the disappointment of last week's defeat in Kiev, Arsenal began brightly, as Dave Watson headed off the Everton line from Ljungberg's header after only three minutes. Three minutes later Arsenal scored what turned out to be the winner. Lee Dixon broke down the right and fed the ball inside to Ray Parlour, who cleverly let it run before feeding Anelka.

The 19-year-old left the hapless defender Richard Dunne for dead as he headed for the left edge of the area and struck a rare left-foot shot past Thomas Myhre.

With Everton happy to position eight men behind the ball for much of the time, Arsenal continued to push forward, creating problems.

Myhre blocked twice in succession from Anelka, who then shot wide from deep in the area after being released by Ljungberg's precise through-ball. Shortly afterwards Parlour had a penalty appeal turned

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Lions are torn to shreds

Andy Wilson at the Reebok Stadium

ON THE face of it Andy Goodway and Glenn Hoddle have little in common. Goodway has never employed a faith healer or recorded a duet with Chris Waddle, and it is hard to imagine Hoddle propping for Oldham. However, after Saturday's record defeat by New Zealand, giving the Kiwis a first series victory in this country since 1971, Great Britain's coach is under similar pressure to his football counterpart and, as in Hoddle's case, much of it is self-inflicted.

Goodway could point to reasonable explanations for the second-half disaster in which the Kiwis ran in 28 unanswered points: the lack of time to work with the players because the series immediately followed the Super League play-offs; injuries that robbed him of three top players and the club game in the southern hemisphere which remains far ahead of the British Super League.

He could also reflect on the narrowness of the margin between success and failure in the modern game: Great Britain had approached perfection in securing a 16-8 half-time lead, only for an over-ambitious pass by Keith Senior, a bad kick by Andy Farrell and poor ball security on Iestyn Harris's part to hand New Zealand the positions for the three tries which turned the game on its head.

But any sympathy for him will inevitably be dissipated by the games he has played with the media over team selection, not revealing his

line-up until the last minute; on the other hand, New Zealand's coach Frank Endacott named his team well in advance each time.

Endacott came into this series with much uncertainty surrounding his future after his removal as coach of the Auckland Warriors. However, he now looks rather more secure than Goodway. All the Kiwi players are keen for him to stay on, and the New Zealand Rugby League will be under pressure to employ him full-time until the 2000 World Cup.

Goodway also remains popular and has the respect of his players, with the captain Farrell insisting last Saturday that they rather than the coach, were responsible for the second-half shambles. "It was the worst 40 minutes I have ever played in," said Farrell. "We went away from the game plan and played as individuals, not as a team."

The players therefore need to do themselves justice in the third Test as a first home whitewash by the Kiwis would leave Goodway's position untenable.

Britain have the ability, as wonderful individual tries from Jason Robinson and Harris and an equally memorable try-saving tackle by Gary Connolly on Quentin Poncia showed.

It was in the forwards where Great Britain were outgunned by the Kiwi half squad of Poncia, Stephen Kearney and Tani Puletua, who were superbly supported by the robust centre play of Ruben Wiki, allowing the scrum-half Stacey Jones and the full-back Richie Barnet, a worthy Man of the Match, to tear the Lions to shreds.

Sports Diary Shiv Sharma

A farewell present for Chelsea from Laudrup

WHAT a fairy-tale return it was for Brian Laudrup when he went to the city of fairytales to play for Chelsea in the second round, second leg, of the Cup Winners' Cup. He scored the only goal of the match to secure a place for the London club in the quarter-finals of the competition for the third time in five seasons. His effort knocked out FC Copenhagen — and hours later the hinesick Dane slipped up as their striker.

Laudrup's goal came in the 32nd minute, and after the break the home side piled on the pressure. However, the holders held out to triumph 2-1 on aggregate. Although now unbeaten in 15 league and cup games since their defeat at Coventry on the opening day of the English football season, Chelsea will need to perform a lot better than they did in the Danish capital when the competition resumes in March.

In the Champions League, Manchester United thrashed Brondby 5-0 at Old Trafford to remain top of Group D and to give their hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals an enormous boost. Alex Ferguson's team were four up inside half-an-hour after David Beckham got the ball rolling with a superb free-kick.

Dwight Yorke set up Andy Cole in himself after linking up with Phil Neville for the latter to run in the third. Paul Scholes got the fifth after a brilliant solo effort in the second-half — United's 17th in three games against the Danish side this year.

But there was no such luck for Arsenal. They dropped from the top to the bottom of Group E after being thrashed 3-1 by Dynamo Kiev. The Gunners, without top guns Dennis Bergkamp, Nicolas Anelka, Marc Overmars and Tony Adams, were chasing the game once Martin Keown conceded a penalty in the 26th minute.

Sergei Rebrov converted and Alexander Holovko made Arsenal pay for missed chances with a second goal after 61 minutes. Andrei Shevchenko scored from a free-kick after Stephen Hughes had given the visitors spirits a lift.

Three of the five British clubs taking part in the UEFA Cup crashed out in the second round, second leg, leaving only Liverpool and Rangers in the competition. The Merseysiders survived against Valencia on away goals but had Steve McManaman and Paul Ince sent off, the latter facing a lengthy ban because of

his poor disciplinary record in international matches.

Claudio Lopez blasted in the opener on 45 minutes for Valencia, but McManaman got the vital breakthrough with a header from a cross by Michael Owen, and Patrick Berger scorched in a second. McManaman, Ince and Amedeo Carboni were sent off following a fracas deep into injury-time. Lopez levelled the scores at 2-2 after his free-kick rebounded off the post into keeper David James and back into the net.

Rangers are Scotland's last hope in the competition after Celtic saw their European ambitions washed away in torrential rain as Zurich struck four times in the second half to win 4-0 on aggregate.

Rangers' game against Bayer Leverkusen at Ibrox was spiced by the fact that the latter were Germany's last representatives in the competition. The Scottish side went through after a 1-1 draw. Their 2-1 first-leg victory proved priceless against Leverkusen, who launched wave upon wave of attack but Rangers held on for a 3-2 aggregate win.

Premiership leaders Aston Villa went out after a classy Celta Vigo display at Villa Ground. The visitors went ahead with a goal from Juan Sanchez after 26 minutes. Stan Collymore levelled four minutes later, but Alexander Mostovoi put the Spaniards ahead with a free-kick before half-time. Lubo Penev extended the lead after the break and Villa

could not come back, losing 2-3 on aggregate.

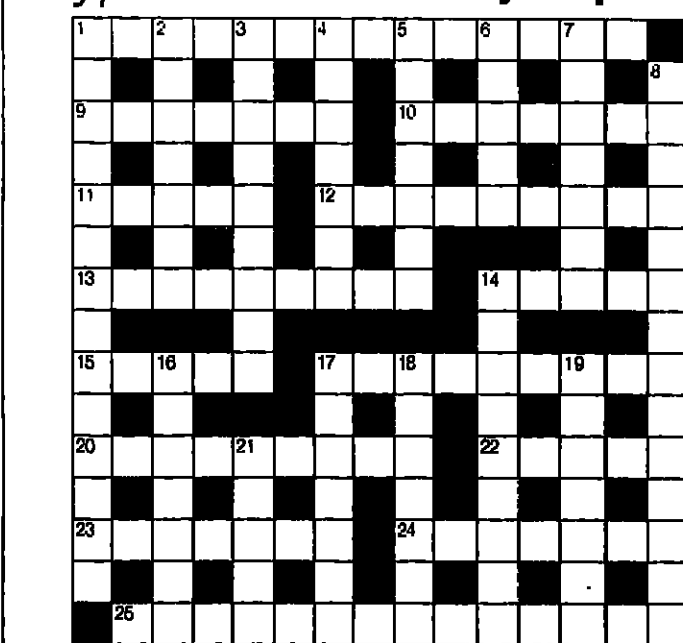
Attempts by Leeds United to turn around their 1-0 deficit from the first leg in the Studio Olimpico against AS Roma failed despite the visitors being reduced to 10 men for half of the game. Roma had Pierre Wome sent off just before the break, but Leeds could not capitalise as the match ended goalless.

MORAL probity will play a pivotal role in the selection of teams for next year's Tour de France. The race organisers are prepared to accept a drastically reduced field in an attempt to avoid a repetition of the drug scandals that beset the 1998 event. "If there are only 15 teams in the race, so be it," said the organiser Jean-Marie Leblanc while presenting next year's plans. "Cycling must show it is capable of a moral revolution, or it will disappear."

AZUMAH NELSON, Africa's most celebrated boxer, has retired at the age of 40. The Ghanalian, three times a world champion and winner of a string of other honours in his 20-year professional career, vowed never to make a comeback.

MARGARET JENNINGS, one of only five women motor racing drivers to hold the coveted 120mph Brooklands badge, has died, aged 89.

Cryptic crossword by Taupi



Across

- 1 Detrimental to a scruffy ragamuffin (14)
- 9 Salmal disturbance having no end (7)
- 10 Time to confine to abbey (7)
- 11 Back ten in plans, say, for exercise (5)
- 12 Flaccid's enthusiasm about returning perfume (9)
- 13 Verdancy's fair in fields to a point (9)
- 14 Lace flag (5)
- 15 Out of practice but reliable if given time (5)
- 17 Meditated on how one sees

Down

- 20 Quick survey again and again? (5,4)
- 22 He's got the message (5)
- 23 One tipping dog (7)
- 24 Refuse bearer of gifts (4-3)
- 25 Good possibility of catching person out? (8,6)
- 1 Unlikely relation of time to one twisting past it (10,4)
- 2 Tone down a finish (7)
- 3 Shock for student in foreign free-city (9)
- 4 No thanks to river rounding

Last week's solution

DICTIONARY QUARREL
R U I U P A A
ALERT STAMPEDE
N E Y O K E I A
CANDIDATE AMONG
H O R R O R
YEARN DALLANCE
Q A E I N E
OVERRIDES GOWAN
S O T S U
TRURO BARKER
R N T R A B
IMPLICITE APPLE
C S O W R
HANDSHEERLY